



The Town of Washington Grove  
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April 10, 2024

Cheryl Ladota  
Assistant Division Chief  
Regional and Intermodal Planning Division  
MDOT State Highway Administration  
707 N Calvert St  
Baltimore MD 2120

**RE: Transportation Alternatives Program Grant application from the City of Gaithersburg**

Dear Ms Ladota,

This letter conveys the support of the Town of Washington Grove for both planning and constructing the Old Town Shared Use Path Project (the "Project") by the City of Gaithersburg.

It is my understanding that Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grants are available through MDOT/SHA for appropriate projects that will provide alternatives to automobile use where such alternatives are presently not available or impractical for safe human use. Certainly, Gaithersburg's Project should be a strong candidate for this support, providing multi-modal non-vehicular alternatives that will interconnect Gaithersburg's neighborhoods and bikeway systems, Washington Grove, and the bikeway system of Montgomery County.

The Project will deliver interconnectivity and improved user safety through the cooperative efforts of Gaithersburg, Washington Grove and Montgomery County.

*Interconnectivity:* Washington Grove lies between the Old Town section of Gaithersburg on our west and Montgomery County on our east. To the east, a new multi-user pathway is being built (the Washington Grove Connector, or WGC) by Montgomery County for completion in about 2 years. The WGC will be built across undeveloped County parkland and connect Brown Street in Washington Grove to Crabbs Branch Way with its bikeway and pedestrian sidewalk, delivering access to retail shopping, the Shady Grove Metro station and the Montgomery County bikeway system. Importantly, the WGC will be accessible to surrounding north and south County neighborhoods and to Gaithersburg, who need only cross Washington Grove on our very pedestrian-safe roads that have very

little traffic, a speed limit of 15 mph, and no through vehicular access. The Project has been initiated to facilitate access from Gaithersburg.

*Safety improvements:* The Project will make major improvements to user safety on Diamond Avenue. Notably, near the connection to Brown Street in Washington Grove, the Project features 1) important safety improvements to the intersection of Diamond Avenue, Washington Grove Lane and Railroad Street, and 2) a new separate sidewalk/pathway along Railroad Street that will be constructed to connect the intersection to Brown Street. For this purpose, a narrow easement will be acquired from the single Washington Grove commercial property owner affected. Access to this property will be made significantly safer than it is currently through creation of a do-not-block box on Railroad Street. We strongly support these safety improvements.

*Multi-Jurisdictional Cooperation:* Residents of the City of Gaithersburg, the Town of Washington Grove and Montgomery County will all benefit from the Project. However, the path crosses the intersection at Railroad Street (controlled by the County), constructs a new sidewalk/pathway on Railroad Street (controlled by the County, with a new easement on Washington Grove commercial property), and ties-in to Brown Street (on Washington Grove public right-of-way). Therefore, cooperation between the three jurisdictions is required. We have been working with Gaithersburg developing the Project near the town and MCDOT has offered its cooperation.

Reiterating, the Town of Washington Grove supports award of a TAP grant to Gaithersburg for both planning and constructing the Old Town Shared Use Path Project.

Respectfully yours,



John G. Compton  
Mayor, Town of Washington Grove

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