



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Al R. Roshdiah
Acting Director

January 8, 2015

Mr. Greg Billing
Washington Area Bicyclist Association
2599 Ontario Road, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Billing:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) formally consider and adopt the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide. MCDOT supports many of the objectives expressed in the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide and is actively seeking to apply many of the design principles and guidance.

As the memorandum from Gloria M. Shepherd, Associate Administrator for Planning, Environment and Realty advocates, MCDOT is committed to taking a flexible approach to bicycle and pedestrian facility design. Additionally, MCDOT is currently pursuing the design and construction of multiple bicycle facilities incorporating much of the guidance put forth in the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide.

Ms. Shepherd's memorandum does stop short of advocating jurisdictions to formally adopt the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide, and we believe with good reason. First, it is one of several resources available to transportation agencies to guide the development and design of bicycle facilities. Also, while the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide provides a wealth of information and guidance regarding the state-of-the-practice relating to bikeway design, it does not constitute a "standard" per se to be formally adopted. Because of the extremely dynamic nature of bikeway design, relatively few national standards have been established and the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide reflects this by being more of a venue for sharing new and successful projects along with a tool box of techniques and applications that may be considered when developing them. It is important to note that even since the guide was published, new projects have been implemented across the Country and with them new designs and treatments are being tested.

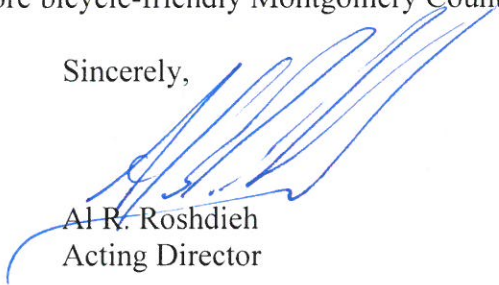
Office of the Director

101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor • Rockville, Maryland 20850 • 240-777-7170 • 240-777-7178 FAX
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot

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In summary, MCDOT is committed to providing a multi-modal transportation network that incorporates state-of-the-practice bicycle facilities, and endorses the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide as one of several documents to utilize in the design and implementation of new bicycle facilities County-wide. Thank you for your support and we look forward to partnering with you in our efforts to create a more bicycle-friendly Montgomery County.

Sincerely,



Al R. Roshdiah
Acting Director

AR:aj

cc: Bruce Johnston, Chief, Division of Transportation Engineering
Emil Wolanin, Acting Deputy Director