September 13, 2024

Mr. Glenn Steckman

City Manager of Cambridge, MD

410 Academy Street

Cambridge, MD 21613

Dear Mr. Steckman,

On behalf of the Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods, I am writing in support of the City’s proposal to request funding from DOT’s Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program. We understand that funding will be requested to support the development of a ready-to-implement plan that will outline how to expand the existing bike/pedestrian trails throughout Cambridge to connect five “hubs” including the Packing House, Pine Street Revitalization, Cambridge Harbor, Main Street, and the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay. The goal of this plan is to improve the quality of life for residents by improving access to daily needs for underserved communities and reducing pollution from transportation sources. Expansion of bike and pedestrian pathways aligns with the City’s commitment to fostering sustainable and healthy communities.

Expanded trails will seek to improve the obstacles caused by existing transportation infrastructure. These obstacles have resulted in barriers to opportunity, damage to the environment and public health, and limited access to daily needs. Connecting the City’s existing trails will bring about several significant improvements including increased accessibility, increased employment numbers, enhanced safety, improved public health and environmental improvements.

Additionally, we encourage the City to continue to work with the State Highway Administration to improve safety along MD343, particularly in the corridor between WaWa and Food Lion. We also support the expansion of the rail trail through to Woods Road and the airport. The expansion of the rail trail would provide improved access for bikers and pedestrians to jobs in Woods Road corridor and the Industrial Park area, as well as an expansion of recreational opportunities.

We strongly encourage the approval of this proposal which will result in more opportunities for Cambridge residents. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chuck McFadden, President, Cambridge Association of Neighborhoods