



WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

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August 5th, 2014

Prince George's County Dept. of Public Works and Transportation
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 300
Largo, Maryland 20774

RE: Adoption of NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide

Director Mobley:

I write to request the Department's formal consideration of National Association of City Transportation Officials' (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide. Bicycling is rapidly growing as primary mode of transportation mode in the Washington region as evident by the largest Bike to Work Day in history this year. Over 17,000 registered for Bike to Work Day. As bicycling grows, transportation department must respond by building the best possible bicycling facilities for people of all ages and abilities. The NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide represents state-of-the-practice solutions to create complete streets that are safe, enjoyable, and accessible for current and new bicyclists.

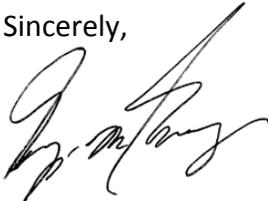
The NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide is a complementary resource to the 2012 AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. The NACTO guide provides traffic engineers with additional designs for innovative bicycling facilities with the explicit purpose to encourage new bicyclists through separation from automobile traffic. Guidance is provided to aid in designing on-road facilities such as buffered bike lanes, protected bike lanes (cycle tracks), bike boxes, contraflow bike lane and much more. Protected bike lanes keep current bicyclists safer while encouraging new people to use bicycles for transportation. Building protected bike lanes must be part of any traffic congestion mitigation strategy.

The designs documented in the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide represent years of experience and collaboration of city transportation across the county. Most of the treatments are not included in the 2012 AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities though effectively all (except two) are permitted under the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The Federal Highway Administration has issued a memorandum in August 2013 officially supporting the manual (included and available online here: bit.ly/1q8lqIS) and provides information regarding MUTCD approval status of all of the bicycle related treatments in this guide. Many cities and state DOTs are adopting the design guide. Most recently, the

California Department of Transportation endorsed the manual in April 2014. VDOT has also endorsed the manual.

This is a request for formal consideration and adoption by your department of the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Billing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "B".

Greg Billing
Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Advocacy Coordinator