WEST WINDSOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ALLIANCE

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February 14, 2024

Dan Benson
County Executive
640 S. Broad St.
PO Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068
Via email: DBenson@mercercounty.org

Re: Safety Improvements for Bicyclists on Washington Road in West Windsor

Dear County Executive Benson:

The West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to making West Windsor and our neighboring communities safer for people who bike and walk. We are writing to request that Mercer County consider and implement the following low-cost improvement to enhance the safety of bicyclists on Washington Road.

We ask that the County upgrade Washington Road's current shoulders by transforming them into bicycle lanes, i.e., re-stripe and mark Washington Road's shoulders as designated bicycle lanes between the D&R Canal and Route 1 and between Route 1 and Route 64.

Among the people who regularly travel this route by bicycle (Washington Road between West Windsor and Princeton) are workers with lower incomes who are without access to motorized vehicles or transit. Others include people who ride for recreation or in place of driving, as an important sustainability contribution. As the road's more vulnerable users, bicyclists would benefit from the simple road design improvement of incorporating bicycle lanes into the existing paved roadway.

Such a safety improvement would be consistent with the general goals and recommendations in the Mercer County Bicycle Master Plan and the circulation element of the West Windsor Master Plan. We also see the addition of continuous on-road bicycle lanes as complementary to the development of the off-road path currently under construction on Princeton University land. Including both the on-road bicycle lanes and the off-road path in the corridor would be a holistic, context-sensitive design approach to making Washington Road safer for all those who travel the road by bicycle.

Along with this request, we also ask that the speed limit be lowered to 35 mph for these same sections of Washington Road, i.e., between the D&R Canal and Route 1 and between Route 1 and Route 64. (We note it was recently lowered to 25 mph in part of one section during construction - thank you.)

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Clifton
President

cc: Via email:
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