

A Resolution by the Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee:

That,

Whereas it is the policy of the State of Maryland, as prescribed in the Annotated Code of Maryland (Section 2-602(1)) that: "Access to and use of transportation facilities by pedestrians and bicycle riders shall be considered and best engineering practices regarding the needs of bicycle riders and pedestrians shall be employed in all phases of transportation planning, including highway design, construction, reconstruction, and repair as well as expansion and improvement of other transportation facilities;" and;

Whereas rivers form major barriers to bicyclists and pedestrians, and;

Whereas the Governor Nice Bridge is fifty miles from the next available Potomac River crossing, requiring a one-hundred-mile detour for bicyclists traveling between southern Maryland and central Virginia, and;

Whereas any new bridge may last seventy five to one hundred years or more, and;

Whereas Section 21-1405 of the Annotated Code of Maryland was amended in 2008 to grant the Chairman of the Maryland Transportation Authority, the authority to allow bicyclists and pedestrians access to any vehicular crossing.

Therefore,

The Maryland Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the Alternative selected for the replacement Governor Nice Bridge include the optional barrier-separated bicycle and pedestrian path.



Jim Swift, Chair
September 25, 2009