



Howard County Office of Transportation

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North Ridge Road Community Meeting Hosted by the Howard County Office of Transportation

Overview

Held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 7:00 pm virtually on Webex platform concerning the possibility of including bike lanes and sharrows markings along North Ridge Road between Sonia Trail and Executive Center Drive.

Chris Eatough and Molly Nur attended representing the Howard County Office of Transportation.

Two members of the public registered and both attended:

- Jack Guarneri
- Fran Horan

Chris Eatough, the Bicycling and Pedestrian Coordinator of the Howard County Office of Transportation welcomed everyone. Notified attendees that the meeting was recorded. Presented the accompanying PowerPoint presentation.

Public Comments

Concern for safety crossing Route 40. Would like to see signage for bicyclist to point them to the safest path. Is there a crosswalk across Route 40?

- Response:
 - There is a crosswalk but no signalization.
 - Route 40 is a state road.
 - The separate bike wayfinding program may help address routing issues when that project complete.
 - Will make recommendation to SHA to add pedestrian signals across Route 40 at Ridge Road.

Would be good to connect to the bike lanes north of Sonia Trail on North Ridge Road. Do they connect to school zones?

- Response:
 - Make recommendation to OOT/DPW to extend the bike lanes on Ridge Road north from the resurfacing limit at Sonia Trail so that they connect to the existing bike lanes on Ridge Road north from Town and County Blvd (approx. 800 feet).
 - Current location is too far from schools to be considered part of school walk zones.

Concern for bicyclists making left turn from North Ridge Road to Executive Center Drive and whether signage or more could be added. Would be good spot for a HAWK beacon.

- Response:
 - o Make recommendation to OOT/DPW to add crosswalk markings across Ridge Road at Executive Center Drive. Curb ramps and sidewalks are already present. This would help pedestrians cross back and forth to retail and dining, help cyclists make the left turn from Ridge Road to Executive Center Drive, and provide some general traffic calming for drivers.
 - o HAWK signalization would require additional study to determine if volumes support it, additional financing, and planning. Currently there are no HAWK signals in Howard County.

Question: are there bicyclists and pedestrians in the area?

- Response: Yes, this route is quite well used by bicyclists and pedestrians as there are many residential areas and businesses in the area.

Question: are there bike racks in the area?

- Response: Yes, at Walmart and Hmart.

Question: what is the status of the development in that area, such as Normandy Shopping Center?

- Response: Some construction is still occurring. Some has been on hold for a long time. Development issues unresolved.

Concern for people getting confused about their route coming out of North Ridge Road onto Route 40. Shared story of picking up bicyclist who was lost, got on Route 29 mistakenly, and was unable to get home.

- Response: Separate wayfinding signs will help people find the correct route they need to go and avoid getting on Route 29 by mistake.