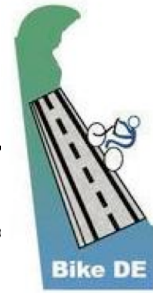




East Coast
Greenway®



Stephen Kingsberry
Chair
WILMAPCO Council
900 Public Safety Boulevard
Dover, Delaware 19901

June 25, 2010

Dear Chairman Kingsberry,

As representatives of a consortium of Delaware organizations involved with non-motorized transportation, we write to draw your attention to an un-ranked FY 2012-2015 TIP Bicycle/Pedestrian project named "**New Castle Industrial Track/ECGW: Boulden Blvd little league-Wilm Riverwalk**". At the next meeting of the WILMAPCO Council on July 15, the Council will have an opportunity to prioritize this project. We request that the Council rank this project highly.

The Wilmington Riverwalk extends over a mile south from downtown Wilmington towards the Russell Peterson Wildlife Refuge, where it currently terminates in a dead-end. Similarly, the New Castle Industrial Track Greenway recently built with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds runs north from old New Castle to a little ways beyond Boulden Blvd, where it also terminates in a dead-end. The "New Castle Industrial Track/ECGW: Boulden Blvd little league-Wilm Riverwalk" project would connect these now isolated paths, leveraging investments already made and providing a non-motorized connection between Wilmington and New Castle.

The project is attractive from utility, recreational and tourism points of view. It would complete a safe, direct and nearly uninterrupted non-motorized path for commuters between downtown Wilmington and New Castle. Currently, the only travel options between New Castle and Wilmington for bicyclists are Rt. 9 and Rt. 13, both high speed and high volume roads, which draw only a small number of, on the one hand, highly skilled, experienced, confident and committed bicyclists and, on the other, bicyclists who do not own a car and so are compelled to use these roads because the option to drive is closed to them. A bicycle "highway" between Wilmington and New Castle will hugely expand the pool of potential bicycle commuters in the area.

In addition, when complete the project will support the Wilmington Riverfront as a recreational and leisure destination for everyone who wants to access a long, flat trail that's free and safe for all for bicycling, including kids, seniors and people with physical disabilities. More, it would also make the Riverfront an easily accessible bicycle destination for people bicycling from the New Castle area. Going in the other direction, it would provide easy access to old New Castle for bicycle tourism originating in Wilmington. In other areas of the country where such 5 to 10 mile

bike paths exist between neighboring towns, it is observed that they are used by individuals and small groups who ride from one town to the other, stop for breakfast or lunch, and then turn around and ride back home. A bike connection with a neighboring town also offers a significant activity for tourists that can provide a reason to prolong a visit and can be something that they can do in an unscheduled way.

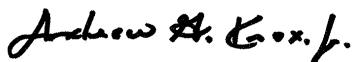
Both New Castle County and DeLDOT support connecting the Riverwalk to the New Castle Industrial Track. DELDOT has given permission for the trail and negotiated an arrangement with New Castle County for use of this state owned right-of-way. Further, the Riverwalk and the New Castle Industrial Track are planned to be part of the East Coast Greenway as it passes thru Delaware. Completion of the "New Castle Industrial Track/ECGW: Boulden Blvd little league-Wilm Riverwalk" would not complete the entire East Coast Greenway (ECGW) in Delaware, but it would close the most critical remaining gap and bring the Delaware portion of the ECGW a giant step forward. Together with the Northern Delaware Greenway, it would also form a spine for off-road bicycling that extends all the way thru Wilmington from north to south.

Very sincerely yours,

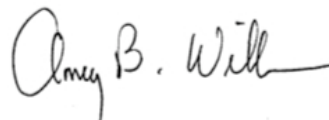


Mark Chura
Executive Director
Delaware Greenways
302-655-7275

Bobbi Britton
Delaware Committee Chair
East Coast Greenway
302-898-6270



Drew Knox
President
Bike Delaware
agknox@gmail.com



Amy Wilburn
Chair
Delaware Bicycle Council
302-760-2453

Cc: James Baker
Cleon Cauley
Christopher Coons
Vance Funk
Karl Karlbacher
Ralph Reeb
Kash Srinivasan
Carolann Wicks
Tigist Zegeye