



National Complete
Streets Coalition



American
Heart
Association.



June 7, 2019

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear County Executive Ball:

On behalf of the National Complete Streets Coalition (NCSC), a program of Smart Growth America, along with the undersigned national expert groups working to implement Complete Streets policies across the country, we thank you for your vision and leadership in identifying and addressing critical transportation needs in Howard County.

NCSC launched the Complete Streets movement in 2004 and continues to promote the development and implementation of Complete Streets policies and professional practices that lead to a transportation system where the needs and safety of all people who use the streets are balanced equitably. To date, more than 1300 agencies at the state and local levels have adopted Complete Streets policies, which has translated to more than 1400 policies across the country. We are pleased that Howard County will soon be one of the localities committed to this movement.

For years, many of the organizations listed below have assisted local and state governments to craft policies, resolutions, and ordinances based on NCSC's ten elements of an ideal Complete Streets policy (available for free on NCSC's website). We strongly believe that these elements are the base of a comprehensive and effective policy. In particular, the elements emphasize binding, accountable next steps toward implementation, including revising other policies and practices to support Complete Streets implementation and designating a committee or oversight body to ensure implementation progresses. Although many municipalities have passed Complete Streets policies and resolutions, these commitments have not always translated to substantive implementation on the ground often because they lacked strong, binding language and accountability measures to spur equitable implementation.

To strengthen their commitment to Complete Streets, many localities that started with resolutions have enacted a subsequent ordinance that holds government agencies, contractors, and developers accountable to implementation schedules, performance measurement, transparency, and inclusive community engagement.

While passing a policy or resolution is an important step forward to establish a commitment to Complete Streets, **ordinances establish stronger, binding commitments to Complete Streets implementation by directly modifying city or county codes, leading to more sustainable and accountable implementation.** We recommend crafting an ordinance that includes the ten elements of an ideal Complete Streets policy and including accountable next steps to equitably implement this policy across the county.

The NCSC and many of the organizations below support communities to strengthen their Complete Streets policies and can serve as a resource for you and your staff. We look forward to supporting Howard County as you continue to make your community a safer and healthier place to live.

Sincerely,

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Director
National Complete Streets Coalition

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cc: Howard County Council
Howard County Complete Streets Implementation Team
Howard County Multimodal Transportation Board