

Glenn Dale Citizens' Association, Inc.

P. O. Box 235
Glenn Dale, Maryland 20769
August 3, 2010

Dustin Kuzan
Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Maryland State Highway Administration
Baltimore, Maryland

Re: Request for Evaluation and Placement of R4-11 Signs in Glenn Dale, Maryland

Dear Mr. Kuzan:

I write on behalf of the Glenn Dale Citizens Association, Inc. (GDCA), a civic association serving the residents of greater Glenn Dale in Prince George's County (generally encompassing the 20769 zip code and surrounding environs), to ask the State Highway Administration (SHA) to post signs and pavement markings to better inform motorists and cyclists about their respective rights and responsibilities on roadways in and around Glenn Dale. This is particularly important on roads and bridges without paved shoulders, with lanes that are too narrow for a car to safely pass a bicycle within the lane. Under such circumstances, a bicyclist is not required to ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, Maryland Code § 21-1205(a)(6), as it is safer to ride in the center of the lane. Cyclists and motorists, however, are not always aware of this law, or of where and how it applies.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 2009 Ed., Part 9, Figure 9B-2, includes Regulatory Sign R4-11, "Bicycles May Use Full Lane," indicating lanes that are too narrow for a car to pass a bicycle safely within the lane. The GDCA requests that SHA evaluate and place R4-11 signs and pavement markings, where appropriate, within Glenn Dale, as well as on key bike routes between Glenn Dale and the District of Columbia, such as MD-450 inside the Capital Beltway.

The GDCA further requests that SHA undertake this evaluation and placement in our community as an SHA demonstration project for the feasibility of broader, state-wide use of R4-11. The East Coast Greenway and the American Discovery Trail pass through Glenn Dale, which has a large cycling population, including many daily commuters. We also have a strong working relationship with County officials responsible for bicycle safety and accessibility. Thus, our community offers an excellent test bed for SHA's evaluation of this and other needed bicycle control devices. We respectfully request a response from your office within 20 working days from the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Henry N. Wixon, President
Glenn Dale Citizens' Association, Inc.

cc: Hon. James W. Hubbard, Delegate, District 23A
Fred Shaffer, MNCPPC
Gregory I. Slater, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, SHA
Kim Frum, District 3 Community Liaison, SHA