



P.O. Box 30703  
Bethesda, MD 20824

December 2009

Dear Friend of the Capital Crescent Trail,

Walking or cycling on the Trail reminds us that this is one of the most beautiful places in Washington to enjoy the outdoors. In this period of economic stress, inexpensive outdoor recreation and commuting are particularly important. We are fortunate to have such a handsome trail, and we will make every effort to keep it attractive and safe.

**Much attention has been focused still on the Purple Line**, particularly the segment between Bethesda and Silver Spring. We are determined that if it is built along the Georgetown Branch corridor, the locally preferred alternative endorsed by the County and the state of Maryland, the Capital Crescent Trail will be preserved as an outstanding hiker-biker trail for its numerous users. The Trail must be continuous and off-road, stay within the tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue and connect directly into the Silver Spring Transit Center. It must have at least a 12-foot paved surface, except where the right-of-way is not wide enough to permit more than a 10-foot width. Funding for the Purple Line must include funding for necessary construction on the Capital Crescent Trail, and the Purple Line must not begin construction until such funding is assured.

All of these goals have been endorsed and appear in the latest Montgomery County and Maryland Transportation Administration plans. Your Coalition representatives will vigorously advocate for a first class Trail at relevant Purple Line meetings and with public officials.

**2009 has been a year of accomplishments.** First and foremost, this spring the Coalition submitted a public-private partnership proposal to Montgomery County Parks for a handsome well-equipped rest area on the side of River Road nearest to Bethesda. The proposal is now pending approval from Parks and the County. We will let you all know when a public meeting is held to present the plan to the surrounding neighborhoods and when the Planning Board has formally approved the design, thus allowing construction to begin.

We have replaced many of the mile markers that dot the Trail and are following closely the design of the proposed large boathouse at the Georgetown end of the Trail. The Coalition continues to encourage Trail safety by giving away bicycle bells and whistles for bicyclists and rollerbladers at weekend events on the Trail. We promote improved conditions along the Trail by participating in Earth Day cleanup projects and in the Parks Department campaign to remove invasive species. We have sponsored new signage at the Bethesda Avenue trailhead and are working on improvements to the look of our web site.

Ever increasing Trail usage and other important issues remain, particularly Trail safety, Trail access, and more rest areas. Your comments and suggestions are important to us, and we welcome them via our web site, [www.cctrail.org](http://www.cctrail.org), or by telephone to 202-234-4874. We depend on your memberships and contributions for our work; we have no paid employees, just volunteers. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible as the Coalition is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization. Please send a check to address above or go to our web site to contribute with your credit card online. We greatly appreciate your help.

Peter Gray, Chair