

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

DIVISION OF PLANNING and PERMITTING

Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office

Deborah A. Carpenter, AICP, Division Director
Kimberly Gaines, Department Head

September 30, 2026

Andrew Radcliffe, P.E.
District Engineer
Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration – District 7
SHADistrict7@mdot.maryland.gov

Anish Thomas
Regional Engineer, Access Management
Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration – District 7
athomas10@mdot.maryland.gov

Re: Old National Pike (MD 144) at MD 75 – Proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Modification

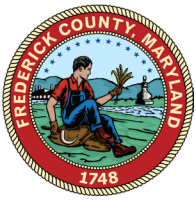
Dear Mr. Radcliffe and Mr. Thomas:

Frederick County has reviewed a request from the Town of New Market concerning a proposed modification to the bicycle and pedestrian improvements associated with the Elm Street Development project near the intersection of MD 75 and MD 144 (Old National Pike).

The current design includes a short bicycle pocket lane along Old National Pike adjacent to a 5-foot sidewalk. The Town has requested that the bicycle pocket lane be removed and that the sidewalk instead be widened to 10 feet to create a shared use path accommodating both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Following review by County planning and public works staff, Frederick County supports the Town's requested modification.

The County recognizes that its adopted Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan identifies a planned on-street bikeway in this area and that the *Frederick to New Market and Mt. Airy Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail Feasibility Study*, dated September 6, 2024, identifies a buffered bicycle lane on the east side of MD 75 and a bikeable shoulder on the west side. The proposed shared use path should therefore be understood as a complementary improvement at this particular location rather than a change to the County's broader long-term bicycle network recommendations.



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For the immediate project area, however, the County believes the 10 foot shared use path would provide a practical and beneficial connection for a broader range of users. In particular, it would better accommodate casual and less-confident bicyclists as well as pedestrians while connecting with the proposed pedestrian crossing of MD 75 and existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian routes serving New Market and the commercial areas along Old National Pike.

Based on our review, Frederick County supports replacing the proposed bicycle pocket lane with the 10 foot shared use path as requested by the Town of New Market, subject to SHA's engineering, safety, and access-permit review.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued coordination with Frederick County and the Town of New Market.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Gaines
Department Head
Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office
Frederick County Government
30 North Market Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701
301-600-1144
kgaines@frederickcountymd.gov

cc: Town of New Market

Patricia Faux

Shawn Burnett, P.E., PTOE, The Wilson T. Ballard Company

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30 North Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701 • 301-600-1138 • Fax 301-600-1645
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