

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “Mason Neck Trail - Northern Segment” project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Fairfax County Government, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035. The funding would be used for the installation of a shared-use path adjacent to Gunston Road, from Julia Taft Way to the entrance to the Pohick Bay Golf Course. The project would provide a bicycle/pedestrian connection between Richmond Highway and an existing shared-use path, from the entrance to the Pohick Bay Golf Course to the entrance of the Mason Neck State Park/Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge. This project is part of a plan for the Mason Neck Trail that will ultimately run along Gunston Road from Richmond Highway to just north of the Potomac River, at the southeastern corner of the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, where it will tie into an existing trailhead parking area for the Great Marsh Trail. This project will also be part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, which is a component of the National Trails System.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will provide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in an area of Fairfax County that is implementing major multimodal improvements. This project will also provide for better bicycle and pedestrian access to federal and state recreational facilities. It is vital to ensure the federal workforce has access to safe, multimodal transportation as well as better bicycle/pedestrian access to federal and state recreational facilities, which is good for both the health of Fairfax County and the federal government. Finally, it will improve safety by separating cyclists and pedestrians from vehicle traffic on the adjacent roadway. The project’s federal nexus is that the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b) Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. Fairfax County has long maintained a strong partnership with the federal government, as the home to numerous federal agencies, employees, and contractors.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Don S. Beyer

Rafael