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MAYOR AND COUNCIL
CITY OF NEWARK
220 South Main Street • Newark, Delaware 19711

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Dear Secretary Bhatt,

On the heels of Newark's many recent successes, in particular its repeat recognition as a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), we request that DeIDOT enter a partnership with the City in a first-in-Delaware project that would

- Highlight both the City's and the State's commitment to bicycle-friendliness, which should ensure our promotion to silver status with the LAB and solidify or further improve Delaware's overall ranking nationally.
- Provide greater visibility, opportunity, and safety for cyclists in our urban environment.
- Enhance the economic vitality of our downtown area by providing an alternative east-west transportation option.

Newark's City Council passed the Newark Bicycle Plan (attached) as a blueprint for bicycle-enhancement projects within our community earlier this year, and since then the Newark Bicycle Committee has recommended that we begin implementing many of the projects cited within the document.

One item identified both by the LAB in its recent post-BFC-award feedback (attached) and in the Newark Bike Plan is a two-way, protected lane (a.k.a. cycle track) for cyclists. Along with the Newark Bicycle Committee, we would like you to partner with us to develop a cycle track along Delaware Avenue, between Orchard Road and Newark High School. We are interested in seeing this project completed prior to the due date of our next BFC application. We have shared this vision with representatives of the University of Delaware, which owns property adjacent to the proposed cycle track location, and they have signaled support and willingness to be involved. Both New York City and Washington, D.C., currently have cycle tracks, and we think that our situation (a need for a safe east-to-west option for bicyclists through the heart of Newark) is particularly applicable to such a solution.

We appreciate your consideration of this partnership proposal and welcome the opportunity to discuss it in person. Together we can provide improved transportation options within Newark, while further increasing the economic vitality of our downtown area and serving as a pilot project for our State.

Sincerely,

Polly Sierer, Mayor

Carol Houck, City Manager

- Cc:
- Nicole Majeski, Deputy Secretary, DeIDOT
 - Drew Boyce, Planning Director, DeIDOT
 - Rob McCleary, Chief Engineer, DeIDOT
 - Alan Brangman, V.P. Facilities, Real Estate & Auxiliary Services, University of Delaware
 - James Wilson, Executive Director, Bike Delaware
 - Mark Deshon, Chair, Newark Bicycle Committee