May 2, 2016

Tanya Allen

Maryland Department of Transportation

Office of Planning and Capital Programming

7201 Corporate Center Drive

Hanover, MD 21076

RE: Melrose Avenue Bicycle Boulevard Project Grant Application

Dear Ms. Allen,

I am excited to support the Baltimore City’s Department of Transportation’s Maryland Bikeways grant application for the Melrose Avenue Bicycle Boulevard Project. Since the adoption of the 2015 Bicycle Master Plan, many neighborhoods have been making great strides in improving bike infrastructure.

Melrose Avenue is a low stress street that provides an east-west connection through North Roland Park between Roland Avenue and Bellona Road. This proposed project would enhance this connection as a bike boulevard as well as upgrade the surface conditions on Melrose Avenue, west of Roland Avenue. This street provides a great east-west connection through the neighborhood because of the low speed and low volume of traffic as well as a pedestrian and bicycle only bridge that deters through traffic activity.

Cities around the country have begun capitalizing on low stress streets, like Melrose Avenue, to continue growing the bicycle network. Portland, OR recently celebrated implementing 100 miles of bicycle boulevards, similar to the one proposed in this application.

The Baltimore City Department of Transportation is dedicated to reforming Baltimore as a more walkable and bikeable city; this project would be a key step to unlocking and enhancing the low stress bike network. This is cruicial to reach our goal of 10,000 families in ten years.

Thank you for considering the Melrose Avenue Bicycl;e Boulevard Project for funding through the Maryland Bikeways Program.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Mayor, City of Baltimore