



Bike Delaware

www.bikede.org

A coalition of like minded citizens and organizations that promote bicycling as a healthy alternative to driving and advocate safe provisions within our transportation system.

June 15, 2009

Dear Secretary Wicks:

I am writing on behalf of Bike Delaware in solid support of replacing unused motor vehicle lanes with non-motorized lanes on the St. Georges Bridge. With the advent of the Route 1 C&D Canal bridge, traffic volumes have fallen considerably lower than the other two-lane spans across the Canal. It is mainly used by local motorists or those attempting to circumvent the toll.

At present there are no truly safe non-motorized crossings of the C&D Canal in Delaware, creating a huge impediment to connecting Delaware's networks of safe routes for bicycles. Fatalities have been recorded on the Reedy Point Bridge, as well as near misses on the Summit Bridge and the St. Georges Bridge in its current lane configuration.

The St. Georges Bridge is centrally located along the C&D Canal, making it the bridge of choice for a safe non-motorized canal crossing.

The benefits of this proposal go well beyond bicycling. Pedestrians, runners, even those with disabilities will have access to breathtaking views of the canal, its ships, the Route 1 Bridge and Delaware's scenic vistas for as far as the eye can see. People will be drawn by the span's magnificence, a technological marvel of its day. When the C&D Canal Park is completed, there will be even more demand for a safe non-motorized canal crossing.

We believe such a facility, if appropriately designed, will enhance the region as a destination for locals and tourists alike. Please consider this "Complete Streets" opportunity and deliver us a C&D Canal bridge safe for everyone to use.

Sincerely,

Frank Warnock
President, Bike Delaware
105 Medley Drive
Newark, DE 19713
(302) 420-2198

cc: Bike Delaware constituents, Mark Eberly, USACE

