

Health and Wellness Advisory Committee  
Falls Church City School Board

November 16, 2019

Dear Dr. Noonan and Mr. Shields:

I write to strongly urge you to identify a safe biking/walking route from the bike path to Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School and George Mason High School. Currently, students take a variety of routes: the sidewalks along Broad Street, the sidewalks directly in front of stores, and the service road behind the Giant shopping center.

While there are long-term plans to extend the bike path on the north side of Route 7 to the middle school/high school complex, we urge the city and the schools to work together to identify school/city-approved biking/walking routes that can be used in the interim. We hope that the city and schools will also work with property owners along Route 7 as they may be willing to accommodate or allow a right of way for students.

The Health and Wellness Advisory Committee is actively working to increase the numbers of students who walk and bike to school. One challenge is the concern among parents that the walking and biking routes to Mary Ellen Henderson and George Mason are unsafe. Route 7 is a heavily trafficked route and the many cut-ins to enter/exit the shopping centers are a hazard to students and pedestrians. With the city's acquisition of grant funds, the Haycock/Shreve/Route 7 intersection safety will be enhanced, and improvements will be made to the connection of the bike path to Haycock/Route 7 along Shreve. But our students walking up Route 7 and using the bike path on the north side of Broad, must also be able to reach the Route7/Haycock/Shreve intersection safely. Working to establish safe routes to school will also enhance the walkability and bikeability of Falls Church City.

Sincerely,

Susan Dimock, Chair

Committee Members:

Cyndi Bohlin  
Alicia Carmody  
Dawn Fine  
Naomi Goodwin  
Laura Gould  
Susana Hill

Angela Mello  
Eftihia Ioannidou  
Komal Bazaz Smith  
Andrea Stevens  
Bridget Kraft  
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cc: School Board, City Council, CACT