



Corren Johnson, Interim Director  
Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
City Hall - Room 250  
100 N. Holliday St, Baltimore, MD 21202

February 23, 2023

re: **Bolton Hill Community Association requests resumption of Eutaw Place Bike Lane project**

Dear Director Johnson,

On February 21, 2023, the Bolton Hill Community Association held a Special Meeting to hear all interested parties and to vote on whether to support or oppose the proposed Eutaw Place bike lane.

The board of the Bolton Hill Community Association passed the motion [voted] by voice vote:

**to encourage Baltimore City Department of Transportation  
to un-pause the Eutaw Place bike lane project  
and to provide more information about possible alternative corridors,  
including those previously considered and the reasons they were dismissed.**

In reaching this vote, the board considered input from residents and organizations:

- Written comments from 36 individuals
- A petition supporting the bike lane, signed by 112 residents of Bolton Hill and 79 residents of surrounding neighborhoods
- An email opposing the bike lane from the Eutaw Conservancy, a residents' beautification organization
- Oral statements by 29 individual residents and by the owner of the Estep Brothers Funeral Home
- A recommendation from the BHCA Traffic Committee to support the project, with caveat addressing need for further consideration of alternative routes, including those that may have been dismissed previously
- An email from City Councilor Eric Costello, outlining the current planning and financial status of the project

Board discussion centered on concern about negative impacts of the proposed southbound bike lane (and loss of a third lane of parking) on the Estep Brothers Funeral Home and the Masons, as well as the unknown impact on area parking of future development at the sites of Pedestal Gardens and the Eutaw-Marshburn School. Input from residents included suggestions of alternative corridors and concern that these had not adequately been considered.

We urge DOT to move forward in a timely manner in proposing modifications of the southbound lane, to ensure that momentum is not lost and that this important link in the city's bike network can be made real.

Sincerely,

Amy Sheridan, President  
Bolton Hill Community Association

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Attachment: BHCA Traffic Committee Recommendation

email cc:

Mayor Brandon Scott

Council President Nick Mosby

Councilmember Eric Costello

Councilmember James Torrence

DOT Bike Planner Patrick Patterson

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## **BHCA Traffic Committee report to BHCA Board**

Meeting by Zoom, Monday, 2/6/23

All members present: Kevin, Marcus, Drew

Subsequent, final revisions made after Zoom meeting of Traffic Committee (all members) and Amy Sheridan, Monday, 2/13/23.

### 1. Should BHCA take a position on the Eutaw Place bike lane?

WHEREAS, the first substantive section of BHCA bylaws (Article II) state that BHCA's purpose is "...to take action on matters affecting the interests of its residents," and notes the boundaries of its jurisdiction fall on both sides of Eutaw Place; and

WHEREAS, the proposed bike lane affects the interests of Bolton Hill residents as well as those of contiguous and surrounding neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, 111 Bolton Hill residents – the second-most petitioners on any issue before Bolton Hill in recent memory, according to a former BHCA President/longtime BHCA Board member – and 76 residents of surrounding neighborhoods (Reservoir Hill, Madison Park, Marble Hill, Auchentoroly Terrace, Druid Heights, Upton, Mount Vernon, Seton Hill) that would be affected by the bike lane requested, via petition, that BHCA take a position of support for the project; and

WHEREAS, Eutaw Place was identified as a corridor in the city's 2017 Separated Bike Lane Network Plan (SBLNP)<sup>1</sup> and was awarded a \$70,000 state grant for design in 2018 from the Maryland Bikeways program; it is therefore

**RESOLVED, the BHCA Traffic Committee finds – by consensus – that the Eutaw Place bike lane is within the purview of BHCA's mission and recommends that BHCA take a position on the project.**

### 2. What is the Traffic Committee's position on the project?

The committee supports the project, as proposed by DOT (strongly favoring Section 2: Alternative B, with bike lanes along median), by a vote of 2-1.

- The Committee recognizes that the loss of parking spaces along the park median would have an adverse impact on Eutaw residents and on the fraternal organizations and funeral home; but
- Recognizes that the Eutaw Place bike lane would fill a missing gap in a safe active transportation network for residents of our neighborhood and those to our north such as

<sup>1</sup> The Separated Lane Network Plan had its own round of public input surveys, community meetings, and large public meetings, including a large community meeting BCDOT (at the Baltimore School for the Arts in 2017). After those input and feedback sessions, the plan went before the Baltimore City Planning Commission, which also provided a public input period in advance of and at the hearing. It was then unanimously adopted as an official city plan.

- Reservoir Hill and Auchentoroly Terrace to access public transit, job, and other connections at State Center, Penn Station, and Downtown; while residents of our neighborhood and those to our south would have better access to Druid Hill Park; and
- Eutaw Place was identified as the optimal location by DOT following years of study based on factors including continuation of existing northbound bike lane on Eutaw Place in Reservoir Hill; barriers to running the bike lane all the way down Madison Ave. in Madison Park/Marble Hill; and the unusual width of Eutaw Place in Bolton Hill; and
  - Bike lanes are amenities for the many people who would use it, for a more environmentally friendly and lower cost mode of transportation than cars, but also as multimodal mobility lanes, used by joggers, by people in wheelchairs, and by parents with strollers; and
  - The reduction of traffic lanes in each direction and other “traffic-calming” effects of the project would likely slow traffic on Eutaw, make it safer for pedestrians including those accessing the park median, and reduce cut-through traffic (including spillover effect on Bolton Hill streets such as Laurens and Lafayette); and
  - BHCA has received tremendous documented support for the project from neighbors in and near Bolton Hill.

**By majority vote, the Traffic Committee supports the Eutaw Place bike lane and the resumption of the project by DOT.** The majority in favor of the proposal additionally prefers Alternative B (bike lanes along median).

Moreover, the committee feels it *could reach consensus* in favor of the project were certain alternative routes and designs found to be viable to mitigate impacts on parking – particularly the funeral home and fraternity in the 1200-1300 blocks of Eutaw. For example:

- the committee recommends that DOT evaluate or reconsider options like moving the southern portion of the southbound bike lane (approx. 1200 block) on to Madison Ave. and/or into the southernmost section of median park; and
- If the above option and other alternatives have been explored and are not feasible, the committee requests that DOT re-state those and explain why.

The committee *also recommends by consensus* that BHCA and DOT further address parking loss by exploring the feasibility of:

- making Eutaw Place residents eligible to purchase Zone 3 residential parking permits so that they may park overnight on Bolton Hill side streets, to ameliorate loss of median overnight/weekend parking. (This would not make parking on Eutaw Place itself part of the Zone 3 area.); and
- allowing overnight & weekend parking to residents and attendees of funeral home and fraternity events at surface parking lots – both recently transferred from State to the City – at Dolphin & Madison (vacated Maryland Department of Labor building) and at 29th Division St. & N. Eutaw Street (State Center lot).

**THEREFORE, by consensus, the Traffic Committee recommends that BHCA supports a motion encouraging DOT to un-pause the Eutaw Place Bike Lane project and present a final proposal, and additionally to provide more information to Bolton Hill and surrounding neighborhoods about possible alternative corridors, including corridors that**

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**were previously considered and the reasons they were dismissed.**

–Submitted respectfully to the BHCA Executive Committee and to the full BHCA Board of Directors on Monday, February 13, 2023