COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C 20001

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May 20, 2002

Mr. Andrew Altman, Director
D.C. Office of Planning
801 North Capitol St., NE #400
Washington DC 20002

RE: BZA Application No. 16833

Dear Andy Altman:

My understanding is that there are four alignments under consideration through Takoma Park for the Metropolitan Branch Trail, that only one of them involves a grade-separated crossing of Carroll Street, but that the proposed development at 306 Carroll Street (BZA Application No. 16833) forecloses this possibility. It is also my understanding that this application was not referred to the DPW Division of Transportation for timely comment.

Advocates for the grade-separated alignment note that if the developer of 306 Carroll Street were to set back his proposed building an additional five feet this particular alignment could be accommodated. They maintain that:

> "Only this route can easily meet federal ADA trail requirements, something the other more recently proposed alternate routes do not. This direct & level path route encourages bike commuting, the other routes pit bikes against cars -- hardly an incentive to reduce vehicular traffic congestion and its air pollution effects in the city."

It would seem that there has been a failure to adequately coordinate all of the planning concerns in this case. I would like to know how this could have happened or, alternatively, why the Office of Planning determined that all of the planning concerns were adequately addressed.

Sincerely,

Phil Mendelson

BZA
Case No. 16878
Exhibit No. 29

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16878
EXHIBIT NO.29