



May 10, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Chairman Anthony Hood
441 4th Street, NW
Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001
zcsubmissions@dc.gov

Re: Letter in Support of Case No. 15-16

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

I am executive director of Gear' Up Bicycles, a community, non-profit bicycles shop located in the Eckington neighborhood in Northeast Washington, DC. We are located approximately 1/4th of a mile south of the planned development at Rhode Island Avenue. As a community non-profit, we pride ourselves on being a hub of activity directly linked to the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

I am writing to express my support to the PUD proposed for the Rhode Island Avenue Shopping Center. I look forward to the having more retail options and destinations that the development will bring, including a grocery store, restaurants, gym, movie theater and other biking friendly businesses. These retailers will provide convenience and entertainment options in our community, both of which are currently lacking. The project also includes several public outdoor spaces that I am excited about, including the Bryant Street Park and the eastern and western plazas. These spaces will bring outdoor café space and recreation space that don't currently exist in our neighborhood.

I am pleased and excited about the planned improvements that will be made to the Metropolitan Branch Trail. This development will make the trail less isolated and safer, which is important to me and my family. Trail facing businesses will also spur more development for the trail as well as drive more users for the important community resource.

In all, this development will be a big improvement over the existing shopping center and I hope the Commission will approve this application.

Sincerely,

Sterling Stone
Executive Director
Gearin' Up Bicycles
314 Randolph Place, NE
Washington, DC, 20002