

Montgomery Bicycle Advocates
7121 Thomas Branch Dr.
Bethesda, Md. 20817

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

March 9, 2009

Re: Please do not reject ICC Trail "Option 3" in Rock Creek area

Members of the County Council,

Thank you for supporting the master planned ICC trail at this crucial time! It is much appreciated.

So pardon our persistence if we are still concerned about the section of trail along Muncaster Mill Road west of Needwood Road. Trail supporters have compromised to accept a general alignment along Muncaster Mill Road, but we can imagine no reason for M-NCPPC's rejection of the highly superior option in that corridor, called "Option 3" in the Master Plan Amendment (as depicted in the attached M-NCPPC diagram). The Council appears to be heading towards putting only Option 2 in the master plan. M-NCPPC's rationale for rejecting Option 3 is that it "connects through the park (and through wetland or along steep slopes)".

This is simply wrong. Option 3 doesn't go through these sensitive areas unless one tries very hard to pick the worst possible alignment. **Option 3 stays out of forest and flood plan (let alone wetlands) and is set almost entirely in a vacant strip of land sandwiched between the highway and backyards, maybe 200' wide.** Literally it's a field left vacant for construction of the ICC. The last leg of Option 3 turns north before it would otherwise have to enter the park, thus sparing parkland to be graced only by the gentle touch of the six-lane ICC highway. **This final 500' leg avoids forest and flood plain and could be built to skirt the park,** along the boundary between the park and the large institutional lawn next to the park – even on the private side if arrangements could be made.

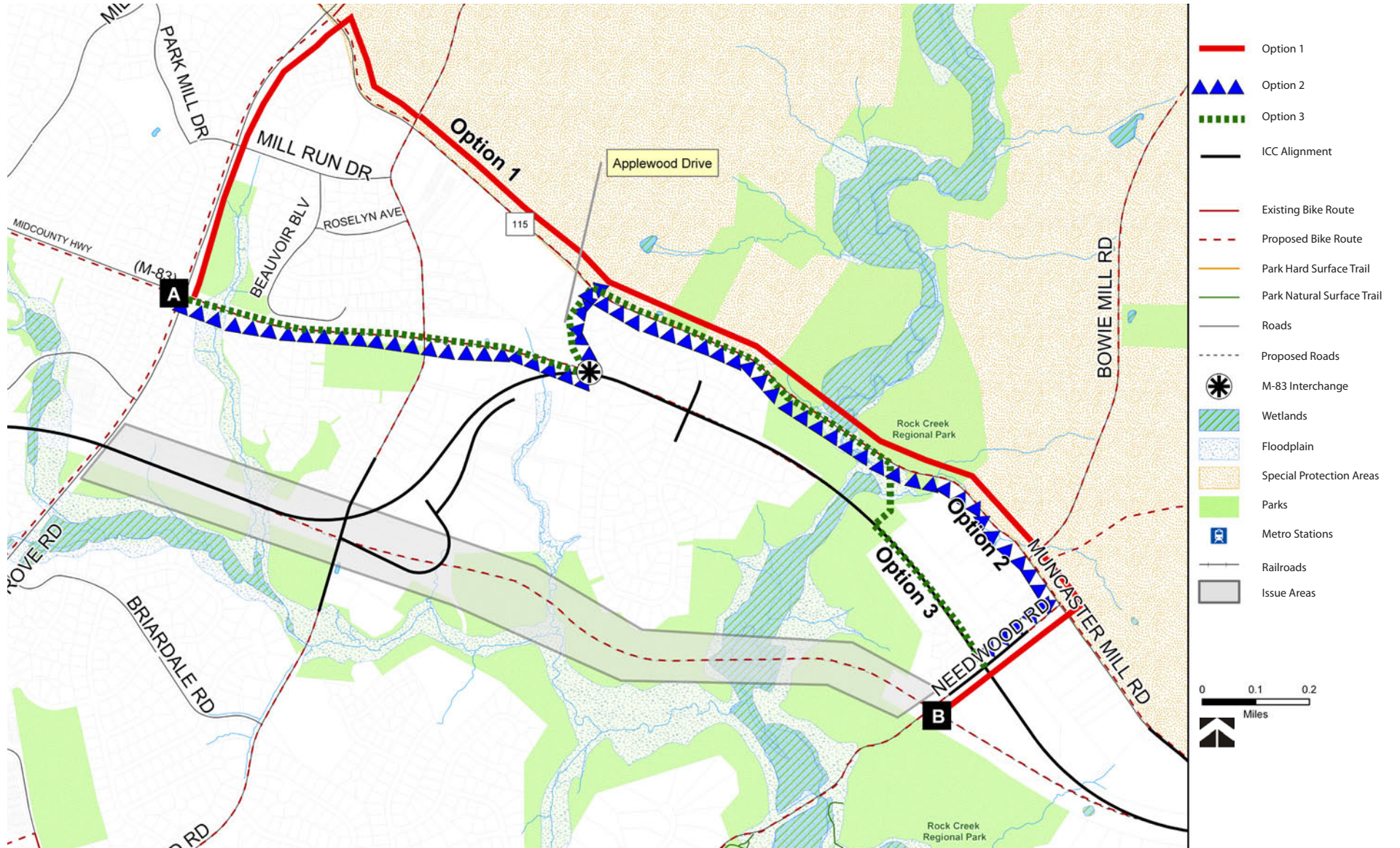
Option 3 is strongly preferred because it would avoid a number of driveway crossings and a signalized intersection. Driveway and street crossings have been cited by trail supporters as the number one problem with the state's many ICC trail detours.

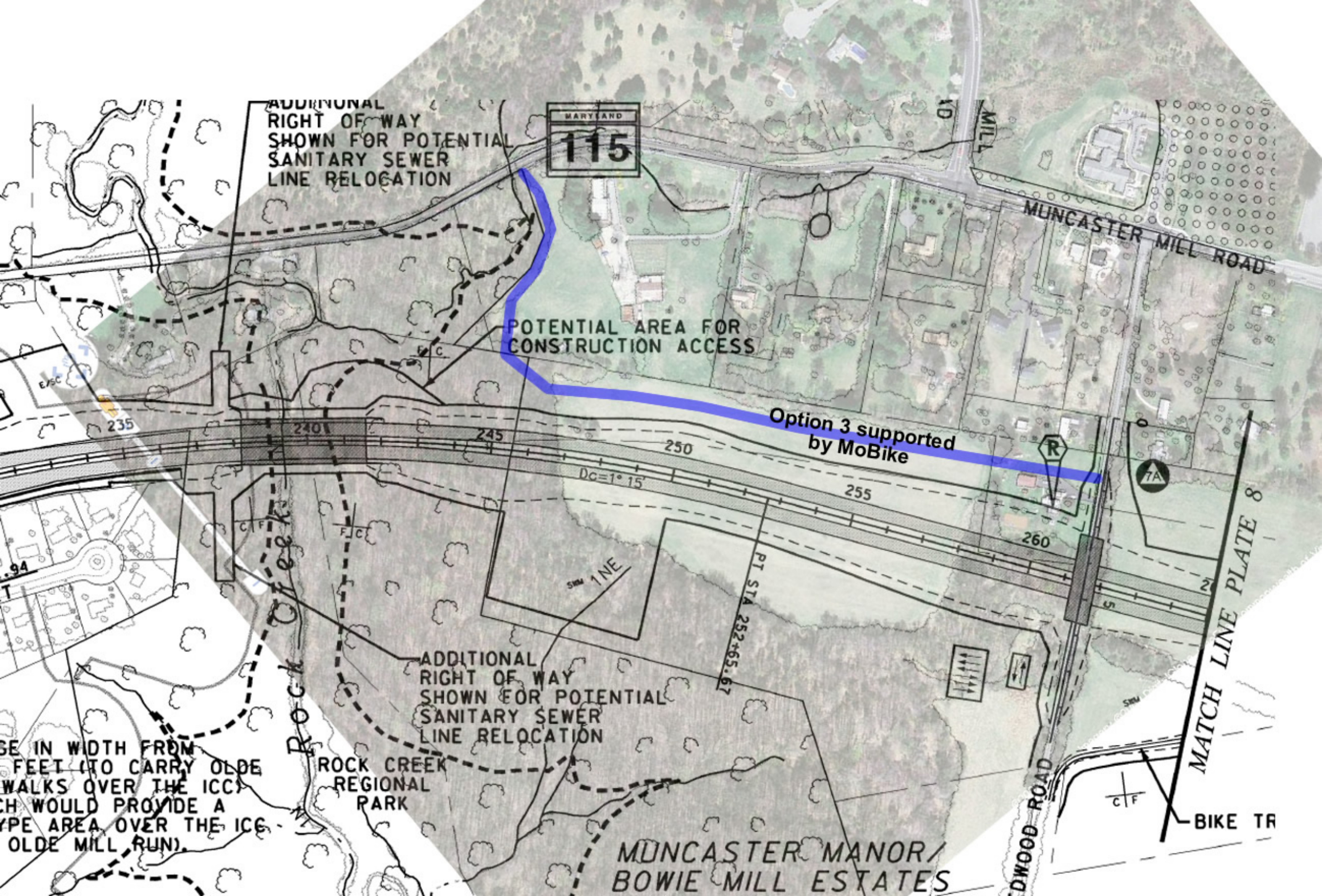
So please do not reject Option 3 until you have had the chance to look closely into its environmental impacts. One solution is to phrase the master plan amendment in a way that does not explicitly choose between Option 2 and Option 3 in this area, but makes it possible to implement either or both options after due analysis.

Sincerely,

Jack Cochrane
Chair, Montgomery Bicycle Advocates
7121 Thomas Branch Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Figure 4 Needwood Road Options





ADDITIONAL
RIGHT OF WAY
SHOWN FOR POTENTIAL
SANITARY SEWER
LINE RELOCATION

MARYLAND
115

POTENTIAL AREA FOR
CONSTRUCTION ACCESS

Option 3 supported
by MoBike

MUNCASTER MILL ROAD

EDWOOD ROAD

ROCK CREEK
REGIONAL
PARK

MUNCASTER MANOR/
BOWIE MILL ESTATES

MATCH LINE PLATE 8

BIKE TR

SE IN WIDTH FROM
FEET (TO CARRY OLDE
WALKS OVER THE ICC)
CH WOULD PROVIDE A
TYPE AREA OVER THE ICC
OLDE MILL RUN).

ADDITIONAL
RIGHT OF WAY
SHOWN FOR POTENTIAL
SANITARY SEWER
LINE RELOCATION

SW 1 NE

PT STA 252+65.67

DC=1° 15'

235

240

245

250

255

260

94

C F

F C

R

7A

C F