A Safer Suitland Road

Connecting Communities on Safer Streets in PG County





Opportunities on Suitland Rd.

Suitland Road runs 1.6 miles from Southern Ave. in SE DC to Silver Hill Road (MD-458) in PG County. Despite being the first step linking nearby neighborhoods to shops, transit and employment centers, Suitland Road offers a hostile experience for people traveling by foot or bike. With 18 foot lanes, drivers easily drive above the 30 mph speed limit. There are bus stops, but no continuous sidewalks to get to them. There is ample room for bicyclists, but no accommodations to make them feel safe. Suitland Road offers many places to go, but only if the trip starts with car keys.

Vehicle counts from the past 12 years show declining car trips on Suitland Road, yet there is no shortage of nearby families and commuters in need of transportation choices. The extra-wide lanes could easily be reconfigured to accommodate other travel modes without removing car lanes, creating a safer, more welcoming street for all.

The Solution

Install protected bike and pedestrian lanes on Suitland Road for an active, low stress alternative to getting around by car. Protected bike lanes would provide greater mobility for neighbors and commuters and increase safety for all road users.

Benefits to the Community

- Protected bike lanes on Suitland Road will reduce speeding while creating a dedicated space for people on bicycles.
- Pedestrians will benefit from a new buffer from busy street traffic, shorter crossing distances, and slower vehicle speeds.
- Protected bike lanes will link into the regional bicycle network by connecting to current and future trails and bike lanes in the District.
- Thanks to existing extra-wide lanes, protected bike and pedestrian lanes can be installed without reducing car travel lanes or expanding the road.

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