



# The Capital Crescent Trail

Fall 1995

Vol. VII No. 2

## Capital Crescent Trail - Silver Spring to Bethesda Interim Trail Report

by Ernie Brooks

The Montgomery County Council, by a vote of 9-0, has authorized \$390,000 for the installation of an interim trail in the portion of the Georgetown Branch rail corridor between Silver Spring and Bethesda. The plans for the first stage on this final section of the Capital Crescent Trail (CCT) call for pulling up rails and ties between the intersection of Bethesda and Woodmont Avenues in Bethesda (current trailhead for the CCT) and the railline crossing of Kansas Ave in Silver Spring. The railhead will then be graded and finished with a crushed stone surface (much like the CCT surface south of Bethesda before final pavement) except for two important pieces - the tunnel under Wisconsin Ave in the heart of downtown Bethesda, and the trestle over Rock Creek near Silver Spring. It is hoped that combining some private fundraising and additional participation by the county, the tunnel

can be brought on-line as a second phase. The Rock Creek trestle is more directly tied to decisions on a light rail line which is meant to, at some point, share the corridor with the trail. These decisions are a few years away, hence the term Interim Trail. The County Department of Transportation is working on the RFP which should go out before mid-October.

Major credit for procuring this funding goes to Councilmembers Legget and Krahnke as well as the nine member Interim Trail Task Force established last fall by the Council, and chaired by Henri Bartholomot, longtime CCCT board member. Quick progress is expected on this project - one official with the Parks Department has stated that the interim trail will be completed before the Federal Highway Administration finishes the rehab of the Arizona Ave trestle!

## River Road Bridge Bids Return Unexpected Results

by Ernie Brooks

Specs for the Capital Crescent Trail Bridge were received by Montgomery County Parks Department on September 5. The lowest bid at \$899,000 (\$150,000 over budget) and the second lowest bid, was recorded at \$1,100,000.

After the Parks Dept reviewed their bid book to make sure that there were no errors in the specs; they reported that they would eliminate side road paving next to the trail, and the rail on the lower parts of the approach ramp to trim dollars to fit within the budget of \$750,000. They plan to phase the removed items in as dollars become available. (Note: an engineering firm hired by the County had estimated that the bridge could be built as spec'd for \$740,000.)

The bottom line is that we can expect a slight delay in completion of the bridge with no major loss in useability.

**REACH THE CAPITAL CRESCENT  
TRAIL BY:**

The CCT Information Line  
(202) 234-4874 to hear a recording of  
events or to leave a message.

OR

INTERNET:

EWBROOKS@OASYS.DT.NAVY.MIL

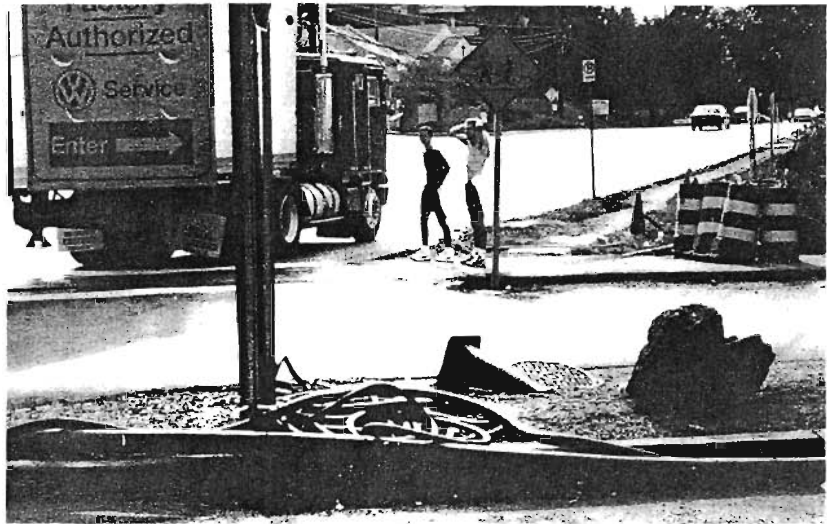
## Crossing Guard at River Road

by Margaret Marchak

Earlier this month Coalition members contacted the Director of Parks to discuss employing a crossing guard to direct traffic at the dangerous Capital Crescent Trail intersection with River Road. The Coalition proposed the idea of employing a crossing guard at the area for a limited amount of time during each day. Attorneys for the Director of Parks have reported that "having a crossing guard creates a greater liability than not having one."

The Coalition continues to remain in contact with county officials to persuade them that a crossing guard is needed while the bridge is under construction. If you feel as strongly as we do about getting a crossing guard out to this intersection while the bridge is under construction please contact:

Mr. Don Cochran  
Director of Parks  
9500 Brunett Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
(301) 495-2500



*Cars and trucks have little braking time before crossing tracks at River Road. Trail users travelling north on the trail must first negotiate with a large truck instead. Photo: Maria-Luisa Yon*



*Cars and people just don't mix! Cars have little time to stop before crossing the tracks and that means even less time to brake for trail users. Photo: Maria-Luisa Yon*



*Traffic moving West on River Road has just seconds to brake before going over the tracks. (See sign to right of truck.) Photo: Maria-Luisa Yon*

## Arizona Avenue Trestle

by Ernie Brooks and Margaret Marchak

The bonding company for the Federal Highway Administration's original contractor has now undertaken to complete the work. The company will be subject to penalties if the work is not completed by December 1, 1995.

Until completed, the directions below should be followed for getting around the Trestle.

From the District: get on to C&O Canal Toe Path at Fletcher's Boathouse, go under Arizona Ave. Bridge continue along NORTH on the toe path; at approximately 1.5 miles, cross the canal at lock 5, take spiral, and dirt trail up to Brookmont area; take a left onto RIDGE DRIVE, it curves to become MARYLAND AVENUE in 4 blocks; cross Broad Street, continue north and take a RIGHT onto MACARTHUR BLVD. Go SOUTH up hill and take a left at traffic LIGHT (MARYLAND AVE. and SANGAMORE ROAD) to LITTLE FALLS TRAIL (not marked); go under CCCT trail underpass to intersection with CC trail (green sign which says "Washington/River Road.")

From Capital Crescent Trail near Dalecarlia Tunnel: look sharp for LITTLE FALLS TRAIL (not marked) to left, a few hundred yards before tunnel. (You know you are at the correct intersection when, at its entrance, you turn around to see a green sign which says "Washington/River Road.") Go under Capital Crescent overpass and up to intersection at MACARTHUR BLVD and SANGAMORE ROAD. Take a RIGHT onto MACARTHUR BLVD. Take next LEFT onto MARYLAND AVE.; cross BROAD ST. and continue onto RIDGE DR. (it curves to left). Just after 61ST St. look sharp on the RIGHT for sign which says "Footpath to C&O Canal Lock 5." Go down dirt trail, over bridge, spiral and take a left onto C&O CANAL TOE PATH. Go approximately 1.5 miles and get on Capital Crescent Trail at Fletcher's Boat house.

## Dalecarlia Driveway

by Ernie Brooks

The blockage you have recently seen at the driveway connecting the two pieces of the Corps of Engineers property at the Dalecarlia Water Treatment Plant is the beginning of what will be a 6 month project to construct a bridge over this driveway. The Coalition for the CCT strongly opposed this bridge, but when the Corps proposed this bridge to the Parks & Planning Board, the Board voted that if the Corps wanted a bridge over the driveway they could have it, but the Corps would have to pay for it. At the time the Corps said that it did not have the funds to build the bridge and it appeared that would be the end of it. Subsequently, the Corps has had new facilities enhancement funding approved and part of that funding was set aside for this bridge. The low bid for this bridge came in at \$325,000 which appears to be acceptable, so the Corps is beginning preparatory work.

The first phase involves lowering their current driveway by 4 or 5 feet and this is what you are seeing now. It is anticipated that the actual bridge contract will be awarded in mid-October and the contract will have a 150 calendar day completion time, which puts completion in the mid to end of March time frame. The County Parks Department has indicated that they will do what they can to facilitate passage through this area, especially when the Arizona Ave Trestle rehab has been completed.

## New Board Elected

by Margaret Marchak

We are excited to welcome the following new board members elected in June. Robert Lowe is heading up the October 28 CCC Rally and Remo Day; Jay Chamberlin has volunteered his time as Secretary and letter writer master; Phil Lerman is lending his media experience; Maria-Luisa Yon is providing up-to-date information to passers-by on the trail. Also elected to the board in June were Ken Golding and Harold Zirkin who are working as a joint team.

We're pleased to welcome folks like Scott Hall who continues in his role as Coalition Chair for the second year and John Duggar as Vice Chair. Charlie Wellander is doing his usual smashing job as Assistant Treasurer and phone message relay.

We are excited to have back, as well, Ernie Brooks and Henri Bartholomot who keep the communication going with all officials; Chris Brown as the every-issue person and Mapmaker extraordinaire; Doug Engle in his gargantuan task as trail prep person and Margaret Marchak as newsletter editor.

Thanks to Dena Yver who assisted us with T-shirt sales and spicy ideas about how to deal with bureaucracy and Jennifer Longsworth our pro ride leader and Secretary. We hope to see them back soon.

## Off With The Tracks

### Pro Bono Help Sought:

Interested attorneys (especially those who are experienced with filing motions in Maryland and D. C. courts) please contact us at (202) 234-4874.

### Attention Trail Users!

We want to encourage you to be the eyes and ears of the trail. Boardmembers are on the trail every week, but not every day. If you find anything interesting happening on the corridor while out riding or know of any issues which might impact the trail, positively or negatively, give us a call at (202) 234-4874 and leave a message at #6. Thanks, we look forward to hearing from you.

### Capital Crescent Memorabilia Sought:

During 1996 we will be celebrating our 10th year Coalition anniversary. We are in search of historical artifacts. If you have any memorabilia, pictures, diagrams, maps or other pieces of history that you would be willing to lend or give to the Coalition for a celebration please contact us at (202) 234-4874.

### \$\$ Sponsorship of New Trail Map/Poster \$\$:

The Coalition is seeking one or more corporate or individual sponsors (in the \$1000-\$500 range) to underwrite a new segment-by-segment trail map and colorful poster. We have the donated services of a cartographer, but need support for design and printing. Please contact Chris Brown (202) 343-3758 with your offer or ideas of whom we might contact.

### Reach the Capital Crescent by Internet

For those of you who prefer to "surf the net" you can reach the Capital Crescent Trail through Ernie Brooks,

"ewbrooks@oasys.dt.navy.mil"

he'll process your request.

#### Editor:

*Margaret Marchak*

#### Contributing Editors:

*Ernie Brooks*

*Chris Brown*

#### Designer:

*Jane Garrett*

#### Distribution:

*Elen Jones*

*Washington Area Bicyclist  
Assn.*

## Here's What We've Recently Done

- 1) Pushed Federal Highway Administration (on a daily basis) to continue work on the Canal Trestle over Arizona Avenue
- 2) Advocated a 14' wide (instead of 10' wide) bridge over River Road
- 3) Negotiated for interim trail between Bethesda and Silver Spring

## Here's What Your Coalition is Working On For You...

- 1) Arranging for an interim crossing guard at River Road
- 2) Developing rest stop facilities proposal at Dalecarlia Reservoir
- 3) Advocating for continued use of tunnel under Wisconsin Avenue for trail use

Wanna help? Volunteers always welcome! Please feel free to call us at (202) 234-4874 for details.

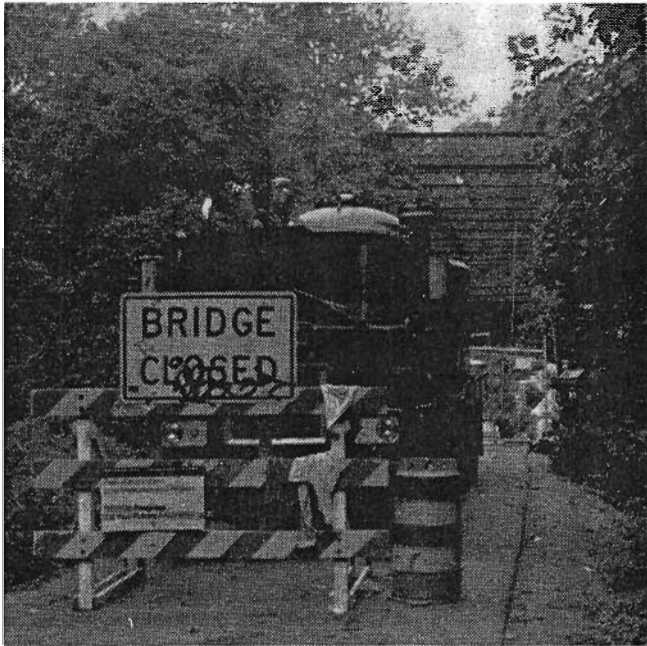


Photo: Chris Brown  
*Construction has finally proceeded on the bridge over Arizona Avenue*

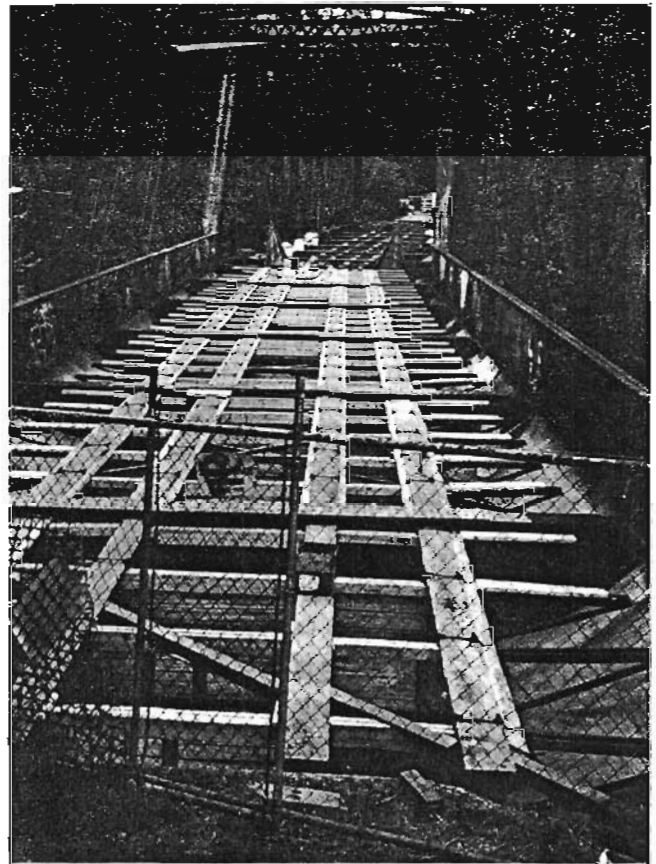


Photo: Chris Brown  
*... and progress is indeed being made!*

# YES! I WANT TO HELP CREATE THE CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100. Special Honor Membership, commemorative spike, your name in our annual report, action alerts for one year and subscription to <i>The Capital Crescent Trail</i> .                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30. Sustaining Membership, your name in our annual report, subscription to <i>The Capital Crescent Trail</i> and action alerts for one year. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60. Sponsoring Membership, your name in our annual report, subscription to <i>The Capital Crescent Trail</i> , action alerts for one year and a T-shirt. Please circle size: M L XL (sorry no size small) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15. Individual Membership, subscription to <i>The Capital Crescent Trail</i> and action alerts for one year.                                 |

## I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER MY TIME I WANT TO HELP WITH:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> advocacy                     | <input type="checkbox"/> trail clearance  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assisting with CCCT mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> event organizing |

I know of an organization that may joint the CCT. The group is \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail

P.O. Box 30703, Bethesda, MD 20824 Telephone 202-234-4874

## Calendar of Upcoming Events for Fall 1995

\* All contacts can be reached through the CCCT Hotline at (202) 234-4874

October 15	Leafletting Strathmore Hall. Contact: Monica Jeffries
October 23	Board Meeting Contact: Scott Hall
October 28	CCC Rally and Demo Day. Volunteers Needed. Contact: Robert Lowe
December 4	Board Meeting. Contact: Scott Hall
December 9	Annual Hike. Contact: Chris Brown
January 8, 1996	Board Meeting Contact: Scott Hall
January 19, 1996	Map-Making Evening. Contact: Chris Brown
February 12	Board Meeting. Contact: Scott Hall
March 18	Board Meeting. Contact: Scott Hall

Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail  
P.O. Box 30703  
Bethesda, MD 20824

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