



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta
Dedicated to All Better

March 3, 2015

Russell McMurry
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Transportation

Dear Russell:

At Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, it is our mission to make kids better today and healthier tomorrow. Toward that end, we wholeheartedly endorse Georgia Bikes' proposal to incorporate sidewalks, bikes lanes and space for multi-use trails into the GDOT's improvement project in the area of Georgia 400 and Interstate 285.

We know that regular physical activity benefits children (and adults, of course) in many ways, from building stronger bodies and reducing risk of serious disease to improving school performance and enhancing emotional wellbeing. By going the extra mile to integrate bike paths, sidewalks and trail space into your project from the outset, you will play a meaningful role in addressing this critical health challenge for generations to come.

Like the Sandy Springs Conservancy, as well as the Dunwoody and Sandy Springs Chambers of Commerce, we envision these multi-use paths as becoming more than a safe conduit between home, work and leisure activities. For thousands of Atlanta families – including many of our own employees – this space would literally serve as a path to better health.

Pedestrian/bike space would also help set a national best practice, leading the way for other innovative cities in their efforts to reduce traffic congestion, increase the use of alternative transportation and support community health.

From all of us at Children's – and the generations of children who would benefit from the increased physical activity these trails would enable – thank you for considering this vital project.

Sincerely,

Linda Matzigkeit
Chief Administrative Officer
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta