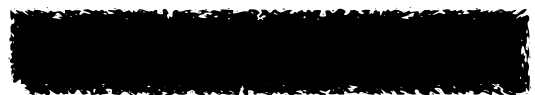


Along Annapolis' historic main street Mayor Gavin Buckley promised to implement a bike lane and wider sidewalks for pedestrians by removing parallel parking on the left side of the street. When Buckley first proposed this massive undertaking, it sounded like a more inclusive idea, allowing bikers and pedestrians to gain more access to the breath-taking views and the historic culture of Annapolis' main street. With a great deal of push back from the public and uncertainty of its overall success Buckley decided to implement a temporary bike lane and expanded sidewalk. This experimental project would be about \$100,000 and that steep price tag within itself caused an immense uproar throughout the Annapolis community. Personally, as a graduate student training in historic preservation and community involvement, I believe that while the intent of this undertaking may have been with good intentions, the execution was in bad taste.

When it comes to historic preservation and changes made to the built environment within a community one of the most important things that our leaders can do is get the community involved and understand what is best for this community. I believe that Buckley should have done more community outreach and discussions as to the possible pros and cons of this proposed change. With the passionate uproar from the downtown Annapolis community I believe that there should have been more of a planning period for this undertaking. With that mindset I can understand how this project could have been seen as an abuse of power on Buckley's part. Within my graduate program they teach us that one of the most important parts of historic preservation and historic districts is its connection to the community, without that connection preservationists and leaders have ultimately failed their community.

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

I would send this letter to the Capital Gazette in Annapolis because this newspaper has been the outlet for many people throughout Annapolis to express their opinion about the proposed bike lane and wider sidewalk. I believe that my letter would be the most relevant and widely seen by people who are passionate about this issue in the Capital Gazette.