



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

January 5, 2022

Gregory Slater, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Dr
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Secretary Slater,

In July of 2021, a majority of the Montgomery County Council agreed with the Maryland Department of Transportation to support adding toll lane capacity to the American Legion Bridge and I-270, but not the Beltway East, consistent with our long-standing position and previous master plan votes. This agreement was memorialized in the resolution adopted by the Council of Government's Transportation Planning Board.

Referring to the finances of this plan, the [TPB resolution](#) said that "MDOT will work collaboratively with Montgomery County to develop plans for construction, final delivery, and operation, funded through ongoing toll revenue" of a priority transit project such as "Phase I of the Corridor Cities Transitway, Bus Rapid Transit in the MD 355 Corridor, or other high priority projects."

We understand that financing for the project is contingent upon contracts that have not yet been signed, meaning that the revenue sources are not yet available to program the project. We also recognize that the County has not yet designated the priority transit project it wants to build. We will proceed to designate that project working collaboratively with stakeholders in the coming months. The resolution does specify that the State will use at least \$60 million from the concessionaire's initial payment to advance the engineering of our priority transit line, which we want to get moving on quickly.

Our goal is to have our priority transit project built concurrently with the "Opportunity Lanes" project. Bringing a bus rapid transit line to 355, for example, will help Montgomery County move forward with many important goals. It will enable us to transform Rockville Pike from a suburban highway to the spine of a thriving city. It will provide an alternative to driving

and help create more jobs locally so that our UpCounty residents do not have to commute such long distances. It will provide a way for our future growth to be more transit focused, since current transit service there is inadequate to support transit oriented development.

To move this initiative to completion in a timely manner, we request that you convene a working group that will include MCDOT, Council staff, MNCPPC, and representatives from Rockville and Gaithersburg. That group will identify costs and timeline and financing for the project, and prepare a draft of an agreement or MOU to be signed by the County and State. Going forward, we will work with the Governor and the General Assembly to ensure that State budgets reflect these agreements.

We look forward to working with you in a collaborative manner to deliver the kind of transportation investments that this County has been seeking for decades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Albornoz', written in a cursive style.

Gabriel Albornoz
Council President
Montgomery County Council

CC: Councilmembers
County Executive Marc Elrich, Montgomery County, MD
Mayor Jud Ashman, Gaithersburg, MD
Mayor Bridget Newton, Rockville, MD
Director Christopher Conklin, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Director Gwen Wright, Montgomery County Planning Department
Chair Casey Anderson, Montgomery County Planning Board