



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Statement by Council President Steve Silverman on the Opening of Public Forums on the Transportation Policy Report

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“One of our greatest challenges as a County is to find a way to tackle the problem of traffic congestion.

“Continuing congestion every day is eating away at the quality of life that led us to want to raise our families, grow our businesses, and put down our roots here in the first place. Anyone who tells you they care about where this County is going in the future must put transportation at the top of their ‘to do’ list.

“Are there easy answers? No. If there were, we would not be in the situation we are now in. But there are answers – and we’ll find a good many of them in the Transportation Policy Report that the Planning Board has given to the Council. The Board’s blueprint for the future came after a diverse task force of thoughtful people – people who care deeply about this County -- spent hundreds of hours poring through data and crafting scenarios.

“It is the Council’s responsibility to take up the blueprint called the Transportation Policy Report. We will separate the proverbial wheat from the chaff to formulate an action plan that includes more transit and more roads. There will be hard choices. There will be trade-offs. But, in the end, we will get Montgomery moving again. And we will do it while protecting our environment and preserving our neighborhoods.

“At public forums tonight and tomorrow, the Council will hear from more than 100 citizens – talking about what they believe we should do in relation to the report. We welcome the input and we promise to turn those words – and the words in the report itself – into deeds. Montgomery’s families deserve – and expect -- no less.” ###