



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

January 24, 2015

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I am sending this letter in support of your stated intention to create an independent transit authority for Montgomery County. In alignment with this intent, ECCAB would like to state its support for a bill (MC24-15) introduced by our county delegates to Annapolis to give Montgomery County that independent transit authority.

We understand that passage of the bill is only the first step in a multi-step process. The second major step would be for the Council to enact the necessary laws to create the authority, after extensive public comment and dialog. The bill doesn't require the council to act, but rather gives them the authority to act. After the council approves local legislation, the County Executive would undertake the many steps needed to actually create the authority and make it operational.

East County has produced incredible support from individuals and organizations in our community. The creation of an independent transit authority will facilitate the economic development called for in the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan. The authority will provide the single focus and mission to develop, operate and maintain the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system envisioned in the recently approve transportation master plan. Without this focus it will take much longer and cost more money.

East County residents see this project as beneficial to the entire region and contributing to the economic growth of East County and beyond. Two other major benefits of the BRT system will be to reduce existing congestion and start to address environmental issues, including global warming.

ECCAB welcomes the chance to have this independent transit authority be aligned with the overall White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan and the future economic development with its accompanying benefits to the citizens and business of East County.

Sincerely,

Marya Ford

Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Montgomery County Council members
Montgomery County State Delegation