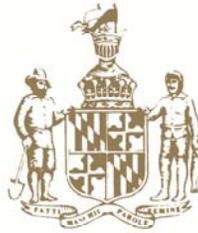


SENATOR RICHARD S. MADALENO, JR.  
DELEGATE ALFRED C. CARR, JR.  
DELEGATE ANA SOL GUTIÉRREZ  
DELEGATE JEFF WALDSTREICHER



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 203  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3137 • 301-858-3137  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3137

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

January 20, 2012

Beverly Swaim-Staley, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Re: Widening of SB Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) at Jones Bridge Road

Dear Secretary Swaim-Staley,

We are writing to ask that MDOT consider postponing the proposed widening of southbound Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) between I495 and Jones Bridge Road.

This original purpose of this project was to relieve roadway congestion that was expected to worsen due to the BRAC related relocation of the Walter Reed Hospital to the Bethesda Naval Hospital. The State Highway Administration recommended this project after forecasting future levels of service using traffic modeling software.

Because the hospital relocation has been completed but construction has not begun there is an opportunity to review actual traffic and transit data to verify whether the mode share for trips to and from the hospital has changed as originally projected.

Several key developments have occurred since the original forecasting and planning was done:

- Federal funds have successfully been obtained and design has begun for a project that will significantly improve improve bus and rail access at the Medical Center Station for trips to the hospital.
- Montgomery County has embarked on an ambitious exercise to determine the feasibility of a countywide bus rapid transit network. The initial study envisions a route along Connecticut Avenue and Jones Bridge Road with a station at the intersection.
- Navy transportation officials have hired a consultant who is collecting traffic data for the forthcoming EIS for new planned non-BRAC construction on campus. This data should include information on post-BRAC implementation traffic.

Postponing the widening of southbound Connecticut Avenue would offer the opportunity to verify the necessity of the project given the changes that have occurred. It also offers the opportunity to better coordinate with potential implementation of bus rapid transit and spare the community from the disruption of repeated roadway construction projects.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please feel free to contact our District 18 delegation if we can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Senator Rich Madaleno



Delegate Al Carr



Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez



Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher

cc: Chris Van Hollen, 8th Congressional District  
Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive  
Melinda Peters, Director, Maryland State Highway Administration  
Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Council President  
Nancy Floreen, Chair of Montgomery County Council PHED Committee  
Francoise Carrier, Chair of Montgomery County Planning Board  
Phil Alperson, Montgomery County BRAC coordinator