

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

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

January 25, 2010

Isiah Leggett, County Executive
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Nancy Floreen, Council President
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett and Council President Floreen,

We are writing to express our concern about the impact of proposed Ride-On bus service cuts on constituents in Kensington, Chevy Chase, Wheaton and Silver Spring.

We know you that you are faced with tough budget choices this year. We also know that you agree about the need to provide the transit options on which our constituents depend to reach the Metro, to get to work or to get to school.

However, in the current economic climate, with gasoline prices once again soaring near \$3 per gallon making driving more expensive, cutting transit poses a heavy burden on those who depend on it the most. Transit cuts also harm commerce and economic development. The Connecticut Avenue corridor already has a reduced frequency of bus service as a result of last year's consolidation of the L7 and L8 and reductions in other bus routes.

With the expected BRAC-related changes in Bethesda and at the Forest Glen annex in Silver Spring, there will be a large influx of new employees, patients and visitors coming in 2011. The County has also approved new development in the Connecticut Avenue Corridor such as Chevy Chase Lake and has accelerated the schedule for the review of yet further density. This is exactly the time when we should be ramping up transit service rather than cutting it so that people will have options other than jumping into cars and adding congestion to our roads.

In a Planning Board Opinion several years ago, the Chevy Chase Land Company, developer of Chevy Chase Lake East, was conditioned to make a one-time contribution of \$1,000,000 to Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation in lieu of making physical improvements to the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Jones Bridge Road. No date for the payment was specified and to our knowledge, it has never been paid.

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We suggest that the County immediately collect the \$1,000,000 that the Chevy Chase Land Company owes and use this money to preserve Ride-On bus Service in the Kensington, Chevy Chase, Wheaton and Silver Spring areas including the L8, Route 7, Route 30, Route 33, Route 34 and other affected bus routes.

Sincerely,



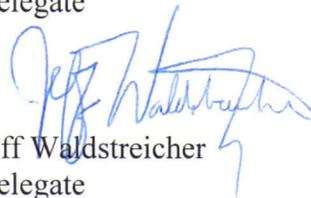
Richard S. Madaleno, Jr.
Senator



Ana Sol Gutiérrez
Delegate



Alfred C. Carr, Jr.
Delegate



Jeff Waldstreicher
Delegate

cc: Town of Kensington

Town of Chevy Chase View

Village of North Chevy Chase

Coalition of Kensington Communities

Coalition of Military Medical Neighbors

Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association

Chairman Royce Hansen

Art Holmes, Director Montgomery Dept of Transportation

Carolyn Biggins, Chief, Division of Transit Services

Melanie Wenger, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Montgomery County Government

Phil Alperson, BRAC Coordinator, Montgomery County Government

Ken Reichard, Office of Senator Ben Cardin

Jahantab Siddiqui, Office of Senator Barbara Mikulski

Joan Kleinman, Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen