



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

April 6, 2015

L. Mark Winston, Esquire  
Glazer Winston Honigman Ellick, PLLC  
5301 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Suite 740  
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Mark:

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to reconvene the Transit Task Force (“Task Force”) for the reasons set forth in this letter, and to accomplish the objectives described below.

The development of a Rapid Transit System (RTS) network at the earliest practicable time is critical to addressing current and future traffic congestion problems, enhancing opportunities for balanced economic and job growth, improving environmental quality, and generally improving the quality of life of Montgomery County. The County has adopted a Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan which outlines the contours of a RTS network, and is participating with the State in plans to build the Corridor Cities Transit Way as a part of our overall network. We now must establish a plan for the implementation of as much of the network as is financially and organizationally feasible.

As you know, last December I proposed enactment by the General Assembly of legislation (MC-24-15) that would have enabled Montgomery County to establish a transit authority, and accomplish other purposes. That proposal became controversial and, since it was obvious that it would not be enacted in the 2015 Session of the General Assembly, I asked that it be withdrawn. However, while I have been open to other proposals that might be made that would allow the County to pursue its goal of having a comprehensive transit system at the earliest practicable time, I continue to believe that my proposal for a transit authority is the best approach.

I ask that the Task Force study the legislation that I proposed, develop procedures for soliciting community and commercial input to its deliberations, offer its comments, and provide advice and recommendations on how it may be improved.

I also ask that the Task Force look at all potential sources of funding for and other potential revenues relating to, the RTS network, and alternative ways in which various funding sources and revenues may be blended as a part of an overall funding plan. Among other issues the Task Force will want to consider are: (a) whether removing this unique investment in transit development and operation from the constraints of the Charter limits is necessary and appropriate in order to finance the development and operation of the RTS network; (b) whether

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use of "public-private partnership" techniques creates additional funding alternatives (both as a result of savings that can be achieved through the design and construction of the network, and through the use of non-profit entities as issuers of tax exempt debt, and through certain efficiencies that may be achieved in the operation of the system); (c) whether changes in the relationship between the County and State with regard to projects like the RTS network (including the Corridor Cities Transit-way) are necessary and, if so, the nature and extent of such changes; and (d) the advisability of transferring existing county transit functions to the authority and the complications that move would create. This list of topics is not meant to be exhaustive. I also ask that the Task Force complete its work and report its findings, conclusions and recommendations to me and the County Council by not later than September 30, 2015.

Please convey my appreciation to your colleagues for their willingness to serve the people of Montgomery County. My office remains available to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isiah Leggett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive