**PUBLIC FORUM**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE’s TRANSIT TASK FORCE**

**JUNE 17, 2015 at 6:00pm**

**in the County Council’s Third Floor Hearing Room**

 The purpose of the Task Force’s Public Forum is to enable interested parties to express their views on subjects now before the Task Force including the legislation referred to below, so that those views may be a part of the record being considered by the Task Force.

 Last year, the County Executive proposed the creation of a Montgomery County Transit Authority to serve as the mechanism to achieve the staged implementation of a high performance bus rapid transit system that we sometimes refer to as the RTS network, as contained in the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan approved by the County Council in late 2013. Mr. Leggett’s proposal was embodied in enabling legislation introduced in the 2015 Session of the Maryland General Assembly at his request. The proposed legislation covered organizational and financial matters. The proposed legislation was subsequently withdrawn.

 Believing the implementation of the first phase of the RTS network at the earliest practicable time and at the best possible price is in the public interest, Mr. Leggett reconvened the Task Force to review the previous legislative proposal and related matters, and make recommendations as how it could be improved.

 The Task Force has been directed to undertake that review and is doing so. The Task Force is not reconsidering whether it is appropriate to develop an RTS network but, rather, how to best organize and finance such an undertaking to ensure effective implementation.

 To provide background information to those wishing to express their views during the Public Forum, the Task Force has and will make available a number of relevant documents:

1. The draft state legislation that was introduced.
2. A summary of the draft legislation prepared by County Attorney Marc Hansen.
3. A power point presentation given to the Task Force by County Finance Director Joseph Beach.
4. The report prepared by VHB Consultants concerning organizational and transfer of functions issues.
5. Other materials have also been put on the Task Force website, such as, the original Task Force report.

Again, participants are asked to direct their comments to the organizational and financial issues contained in and impacted by the legislation, offering comments on the legislation, or how to improve it.

The process at the Public Forum will be as follows:

1. Those wishing to speak at the Public Forum are asked to sign up prior to noon on June 17, 2015. The sign up list will be closed at that time and no sign ups shall occur during the Public Forum. **To register to speak, please call 240-777-7165 Monday thru Friday during normal business hours.**  People signing up will be required to provide their names, address and contact information. It is planned that 40 people will be able to present their views during the Public Forum. Others who are unable to testify, but who wish to submit their views, should submit written remarks to the “Contact Us” portion of the Task Force web page at: <https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/CEXContact/> The record will be kept open for two weeks following the forum, or July 1, 2015.
2. The Public Forum will begin at 6:00pm in the Third Floor Hearing Room of the County Council Building. Registered speakers should expect to begin giving statements by 6:10pm.
3. Each speaker will have 3 minutes within which to make their statements. Speakers are encouraged to submit written statements – and written statements may include materials other than those presented orally at the Public Forum. Also, those persons not presenting statements at the Public Forum may submit written statements to the person maintaining the record at the forum. The record of the Public Forum will be open for two (2) weeks following the conclusion of the Public Forum.

The Task Force will use the feedback received to help guide it in its deliberations over the summer. It is the Task Force’s objective to complete a draft report and possibly proposed state legislation by early September. These documents too, will be the subject of a Public Forum, tentatively scheduled for September 2015, where public input will be received prior to submitting a final report and