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January 19, 2023

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich,

I am very pleased that you were reelected as County Executive for our county. We are fortunate that you have the experience to move us forward into the future.

I understand the process for the next update of the State Transportation Priorities Letter is starting with a public hearing before the full Council on January 24. I am asking that this letter be accepted for the record in support of the MD 108/Laytonsville Bypass around Laytonsville. The greater Laytonsville community is urging support for retaining the Laytonsville bypass in the State Transportation Priorities letter.

It has been a few years since I last spoke with you about Laytonsville. At that time, you helped reestablish the MD 108/Laytonsville Bypass in the County Priority letter for the Consolidated Transportation Program to the State. The Town continues to be thankful for your efforts and we are hopeful that the bypass can be planned and designed in the near future.

The existing Maryland Route 108 goes through the center of the town of Laytonsville. In the hope of reducing excessive traffic, for over twenty years the Town has included the construction of the MD 108/Laytonsville Bypass in its Comprehensive Plan. In the recent past the bypass has received support from the District 14 Delegation and the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. The first portion of the bypass was constructed by the State when the development known as Laytonsville Preserve was built on the west side of Town. The remainder of the bypass is to be constructed in the future. Each morning and evening, many thousands of commuter and construction vehicles travel through Laytonsville. The current Olney Master Plan indicates MD Route 108 will become a four-lane divided roadway up to the Laytonsville's southern boundary. In fact, several miles of this road have already been completed. The Greater Olney Civic Association has given its support for the construction of the MD 108/Laytonsville

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Bypass. Also supporting the bypass is the Montgomery Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League which is comprised of thirty-two municipalities in Montgomery County.


When the State adopted the Priority Funding Area Program, the entire town of Laytonsville was designated as a Priority Funding Area (PFA). When the Town annexed the Rolling Ridge Subdivision in 1998, the boundary for the Primary Funding Area was inadvertently left unchanged. According to County and State officials, to receive State design and construction funds, Laytonsville must receive an exemption for the bypass from the State.

In previous years, the Town has held several meetings with County and State officials regarding the MD 108/Laytonsville Bypass. They recommended the first step in the exemption process was to have the bypass reinstated into the current County's Priority Letter for the Consolidated Transportation Program to the State. With your help this was done a few years ago.

At this time, the town of Laytonsville is requesting the MD 108/Laytonsville Bypass be considered for planning and design in anticipation of funds that may become available in the near future. Advancing this project forward is essential to Laytonsville and adjacent communities, such as Gaithersburg, Olney, and Damascus. Several years ago, a count of the traffic on Route 108 was determined to be more than 17,000 vehicles per day. Many of these vehicles are heavy construction trucks. Because of additional growth in the area, we believe traffic has increased substantially since then. Route 108 divides Laytonsville into east and west sections, separating the Town into halves.

We will be glad to meet with you and the County staff to discuss the MD 108/Laytonsville Bypass in greater detail. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



James A. Ruspi, Mayor
Town of Laytonsville

cc: Honorable Pam Queen, Maryland State Delegate
Honorable Bernice Mireku-North, Maryland State Delegate
Honorable Anne Kaiser, Maryland State Delegate
Honorable Craig Zucker, Maryland State Senator
Honorable James F. Ports, Jr., Maryland Secretary of Transportation
Honorable Evan Glass, Montgomery County Council President
Honorable Dawn Luedtke, Montgomery County Council Member
Honorable Will Jawando, Montgomery County Council Member
Honorable Laurie-Anne Sayles, Montgomery County Council Member
Honorable Gabe Alborno, Montgomery County Council Member
Mr. Christopher Conklin, Director, MCDOT
Mr. Eric Wenger, Laytonsville Planning Commission Chair