



Testimony of the Rockville Mayor and Council
Joint County Council and County Executive Letter on the
State of Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program

January 24, 2023

Good afternoon, President Glass, I'm Councilmember Mark Pierzchala, and I am speaking on behalf of my Mayor and Council colleagues.

Rockville's Mayor and Council want to thank the County Council for the opportunity to testify on the County's draft State Transportation Priority Letter. These comments concern the section titled "Interstate Program".

We strongly endorse the overall approach taken in the County's draft with respect to I-270. As you are aware, the City of Rockville would be most impacted by the proposed P3 project put forward by the Hogan administration. We have shared our concerns that their proposals and processes were severely lacking. Now that we are in the Moore/Miller administration, and with a new State Legislature, we agree that the State DOT/SHA must re-evaluate the cost benefit as it relates to equity, environmental justice and solving the congestion that currently exists mostly between Clarksville and Frederick.

This section of the draft letter focuses primarily on transit and transportation, but a third major thrust of the letter should be focused on the use of the Information Highway (the Internet) as a way to reduce the traffic on our roadways. We learned during the pandemic that much work and many daily tasks can be conducted from homes. Therefore, reducing trips should be part of the County's letter and the State and Federal approaches.

Rockville suggests that the County letter advocate for federal funding of the American Legion Bridge (ALB) rebuild through the Federal Infrastructure Bill (Public Law No. 117-58), given the strategic importance of the ALB to the economic opportunities and benefits, as well as the critical safety and strategic concerns of the DMV and the Nation's Capital.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the County and the State should reassess the traffic travel times on the southern portion of I-270 given the successful implementation of Innovative Congestion Management Project that has already provided additional lanes in Gaithersburg/Rockville and points south. We must ensure that the reality is consistent with the plan.

In support of Vision Zero, we request that MDOT enhance lighting along state roads that go beyond intersections to improve safety, starting with locations that have had the most serious fatalities. In addition, we request that MDOT SHA add and improve sidewalks along state roads in municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony. As always, we are ready and willing to work with you and your staff to ensure that solving congestion issues on state highways that bisect our communities actually work.