



Don & Tina Slater

[REDACTED]  
January 23, 2023

---

To: President Glass and County Councilmembers

From: Tina Slater [slater.tina@gmail.com](mailto:slater.tina@gmail.com)

Subject: State Transportation Priorities Letter Hearing

Dear President Glass and County Councilmembers:

The State Transportation Priorities letter has many good projects listed. My testimony is focused on just one project --- the "Interstate Program" (Toll Road Expansion of I-270 and I-495).

This project is very controversial, there is pending litigation, and now we have a new Governor. Thus, this may be the opportune time to revisit the project. Not only can there be major difficulties and cost surprises with P3 projects (witness the Purple Line project, which I do support), but the "Interstate Program" claims to be funded with high-priced tolls.

With a new Governor, we have an opportunity to pause and reconsider other more equitable and sustainable approaches. Here are some examples:

- Consider Federal aid for refurbishing the American Legion Bridge
- Study expansion of MARC Brunswick line service from Shady Grove and north, to get more people to switch from cars on I-270 to MARC and Metro.
- Implement MD Route 355 BRT (it runs parallel to I-270)
- Turn one or possibly two one-way lanes on I-270 into reversible lanes to handle rush hour traffic. Look at this possibility for I-495.
- When the Purple Line opens (it runs parallel to I-495), consider adding more rail cars and increase frequency
- Mandate that employers above a certain size participate in sustainable commuter services programs (e.g., MC's Fair Share for Employers Program, or the MD Commuter Choice Program). Note that such mandates exist in Washington DC, Washington State and New Jersey.

To follow Governor Moore's axiom: "Leave No One Behind", let's promote alternatives that benefit the many, rather than just the few who are rich enough to pay the high tolls.