To: Montgomery County Executive and County Council Members,

The TAME Coalition requests that the Capital Improvements Program budget must continue to reflect the County's stated transportation priorities, namely that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems are built to completion. The 81-mile BRT Master Plan was implemented 12 years ago, and to date there is no _rapid_ transit built into the BRT.

We also need to fully fund the maintenance for existing roads. There is no need in Montgomery County, Maryland for any brand new highways, especially in a growing county with shrinking natural areas. The TAME Coalition is a single-issue advocacy focused on eliminating proposed Midcounty Highway Extended/M83. This proposed 6-lane highway does not physically exist. It is a 60 year old highway plan that was drawn on a map before planners became conscious of the growing climate disaster, and the damage it would cause to communities. Many of these communities are low income.

Midcounty Highway Extended, known as M83 Highway, has been removed from the Washington DC Regional Transportation Plan by their Planning Board because of new standards for air quality. The M83 Highway is categorized as a highway boondoggle by the national watchdog group, US Public Interest Research Group. Holding on to old master plans in this County is not moving us forward. We need to expand transit to become a meaningful public transportation system that supports all residents countywide.

We ask the County Executive and the County Council to unanimously make Bus Rapid Transit for our County the number one transportation priority, by using the federal infrastructure money, state money, and county money to complete the 81-mile Bus _Rapid_ Transit system for Montgomery County.

Respectfully Submitted, Margaret Schoap Margaret Schoap, Organizer