

From: Ann Kasprzyk-Pawelec

Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025

To: Council Public Hearing

Subject: Testimony

Good evening,

I want to express my strong support for the Amendment to the FY25-30 CIP and Supplemental Appropriation #25-60 to the FY25 Capital Budget concerning the MCPS Bus Depot and Maintenance Relocation Project (No. P360903). As a member of the Derwood community, I personally thank County Executive Elrich for continuing to pursue the long-promised relocation of the school buses currently housed at the Shady Grove MCPS Bus Depot on Crabbs Branch Way and for submitting this CIP amendment now before the Council. Councilmembers, I urge you to approve this project so the County can finally fulfill its commitment to all residents of Derwood, especially the Shady Grove Westside community.

Nineteen years ago, in 2006, Montgomery County approved the Shady Grove Sector Plan. This plan envisioned a walkable, mixed-use community around the Shady Grove Metro Station, featuring civic spaces, parks, community-serving retail, and a school. Central to this vision was, and remains, the relocation of the MCPS Bus Depot on Crabbs Branch Way to enable this transformation. The County reinforced this commitment in the 2020 Shady Grove Minor Master Plan Amendment. Yet, in the nearly 20 years since the original plan, both longtime Derwood residents and newcomers to the still-developing Shady Grove Westside community—who moved here expecting these promised improvements—have watched in frustration as the school bus depot on Crabbs Branch Way remains, despite numerous relocation proposals, including some sites that sit as large, empty parking lots to this day.

Thanks to the dedicated advocacy of community members and the continued engagement of the County's Department of General Services, under the leadership of its Director, David Dise, the County Council now has an opportunity to begin fulfilling this promise. This proposal would relocate the MCPS maintenance facility and 250 school buses to a more suitable location in a commercial and light industrial area along Gude Drive, rather than the heavily residential, Metro Station-adjacent community where it currently stands.

This relocation, combined with the County's ongoing Jeremiah Park project, will finally allow this property to realize its long-intended vision: a more vibrant and healthy community with the parks and open-space amenities this area of the County has long been denied. Moreover, this project will benefit the entire County by enabling new housing, businesses, parks, and civic spaces while reducing the size and scope of the Jeremiah Park project, saving the County hundreds of millions of dollars in future investments.

Thank you, Councilmembers, for your consideration of this vitally important project.

Best Regards,

A. Kasprzyk-Pawelec