Gaithersburg

July 3, 2025

County Council President Kate Stewart
Montgomery County Council
Stella Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Master Plan of Highways and Transitways

Dear Council President Stewart,

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Montgomery County Planning Board's draft *Master Plan of Highways and Transitways*. The City of Gaithersburg (the "City") values its long-standing collaborative relationship with Montgomery County on regional transportation matters.

The City understands that the Planning Board has recommended the County Council adopt the draft plan with the removal of the northern extension of M-83. This long-planned project has consistently been envisioned to improve connectivity and alleviate congestion in the Upcounty area.

Recognizing both the potential impacts of M-83 and its importance to the City and the broader region, **we respectfully request that the right-of-way for M-83 remain in the *Master Plan of Highways and Transitways***. The Frederick Avenue corridor is expected to accommodate much of the City's future growth opportunities, with the redevelopment of Lakeforest Mall as the most recent and significant example. Maintaining the inclusion of M-83 will help address existing and anticipated congestion and will support the success of these redevelopment opportunities. Should the County Council choose to proceed with the Planning Board's recommendation for removal, the City urges the Council to identify and pursue alternative solutions - of all modes, including road network improvements - to address the ongoing regional automotive traffic congestion.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if additional information is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

CC: Montgomery County Council Members