

September 29, 2025

Hon. Kate Stewart
President, Montgomery County Council
Montgomery County, MD

Re: Clarksburg-Montgomery Village Transportation Study should prioritize travel choices

President Stewart and Council Members:

The Coalition for Smarter Growth supports studying the mobility needs in the Clarksburg to Montgomery Village corridor, and respectfully asks you to **ensure that it prioritizes transit, walking, biking, travel demand management, and land use solutions for the Upcounty.**

We thank you for removing the destructive and unnecessary M83 northern section project from the County's Master Plan of Highways. Decades of studies show that [highway expansion induces more driving and traffic](#).

An Upcounty transportation study must both recognize the need for driving trips while prioritizing lasting solutions consistent with the County's general plan *Thrive Montgomery 2050* that seeks to expand transportation choices beyond driving. Transit, walking, biking, travel demand management, and land use solutions give residents more choices while shortening travel distances and making all modes – including driving – safer.

We ask that the study look at things like:

- Expanding and improving use of the existing Ride On and other transit networks in the Upcounty, with fixes that can be implemented without delay;
- Transit, walking and biking improvements that don't depend on building new arterials or highway expansions and new interchanges;
- Local complete street grids and better connected subdivisions that shorten travel distances and provide options for all modes;
- Implementing planned improvements to MARC station access facilities;
- More robust travel demand management programs that can efficiently address peak travel issues, as the I-270 Innovative Congestion Management program has shown; and
- How a 355 BRT FLASH line can support these above strategies in the longer-term.

Thank you for your work,

Bill Pugh, AICP CTP
Transportation & Climate Director
Coalition for Smarter Growth