

Dear Montgomery County Council,

Traffic within our county is stifling and the noxious fumes and debris that cars emit continue to pollute our county. In order to ensure the future of Montgomery County and protect our youth from the health, social, and economic consequences of a car-dependent society, bus priority projects must be invested in. Dramatic improvements have been made system-wide to our transit system, something that we can all be proud of; however, there is more that needs to be done. While planning, design, and construction of the BRT system progresses over the coming years, improvements must be made today to ensure a substantial ridership base will reap the rewards of the BRT system. This starts with more frequent buses. Case studies from across North America have shown time and time again that frequency is one of, if not the most important, barrier to mass transit ridership. Therefore, this council should look to make investments, today, in increasing bus frequency system-wide. Additionally, incremental improvements to the built infrastructure are essential to making mass transit competitive with the private automobile. The \$500,000 set aside for Bus Priority Projects over the next six years is a pittance to bus riders. This figure must be dramatically scaled up to ensure cost-effective implementation of the BRT system and improve the everyday rider's experience.