



## EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 7, 2021

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
County Executive  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich,

On behalf of the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB), I would like to thank you for your support of high-quality transit in East County, in particular, the US 29 Flash project.

On January 8, 2021, the Board sent a letter to your office raising concerns about the assumptions of MCDOT's Draft Report for the **US 29 Mobility & Reliability Study**. The report recommends a "managed lane" as opposed to a median bus lane. Our letter advised that before finalizing its recommendations, MCDOT should coordinate with members of the community and Planning Department staff to determine if a better solution exists to enhance BRT service in the corridor, which would be more in line with *your* ambitious vision that calls for dedicated bus lanes. In the letter, we also requested your direct involvement in some of these conversations. To date, we have not received a response from your office or from MCDOT.

On January 27, 2021, the County Council Transportation & Environment (T&E) Committee rejected MCDOT's recommendations, sharing many of the same concerns raised in our January 8th letter. The Councilmembers requested that MCDOT revisit the assumptions used in the study, find ways to optimize the median bus lane alternative, and conduct a pop-up bus lane pilot study on US 29.

Now that MCDOT is revisiting the study, we once again ask for the opportunity to provide suggestions to the study team and request that you encourage MCDOT to make a more concerted effort to assess the feasibility of dedicated bus lanes.

Recall that in your original 2007/2008 BRT plan, you proposed a reversible bus lane in the median of US 29. You discussed using guideways to minimize right of way requirements and explained how they could fit in the existing median strips, avoiding acquisition of new property. However, MCDOT recommended a less-robust solution in its draft report and acknowledged to the council T&E committee that more effort was spent optimizing the HOV/BRT managed lane alternative as opposed to the median bus lane alternative.

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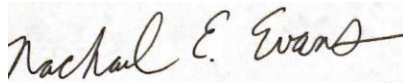
Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904, 240-777-8400, FAX 240-777-8410

We hope that moving forward, you are able to exercise your leadership as County Executive to encourage MCDOT to more diligently develop a BRT plan that provides dedicated bus lanes, as you envisioned over a decade ago.

We thank you again for your thoughtful consideration of the Board's comments regarding the US 29 Mobility & Reliability Study and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rachael E. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rachael" being more prominent than the last name "Evans".

Rachael Evans

Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

cc:

Christopher Conklin, Director MCDOT

Tom Hucker, Montgomery County Council President

Jewru Bandeh, Director, East County Regional Office