



WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

*Serving the areas of Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights
Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac, Rockville, and White Flint*

May 31, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Nancy Navarro
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett and Council President Navarro:

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (WMCCAB) met on Monday, May 20 and as part of the agenda discussed the proposal by the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) to eliminate certain commuter bus routes that service the Bethesda area. The members of the CAB voted to encourage our County leaders to ask MTA to take further steps to examine and review the commuter routes before eliminating them.

The commuter routes are an important piece of a complex puzzle that is being built to mitigate the traffic impact of the BRAC 2005 expansion at the Walter Reed installation in Bethesda. We know that the number of jobs have increased at Walter Reed and will continue to increase at the National Institutes of Health campus across the street. As an economic hub for Montgomery County and for the state of Maryland, we welcome job expansion. However, we must invest in new ways for commuters to travel to these job centers. The Montgomery and Maryland Departments of Transportation have been working with the Navy, the Federal Government, and the local community to develop integrated solutions to allow the mission of Walter Reed to be successful while supporting the surrounding business community and preserving the quality of life of residents. Operational improvements combined with a new focus on a public transit hub at Medical Center are enhanced by other efforts such as the MTA's use of the ICC for commuter buses.

We encourage and support your efforts to request that MTA study these routes to determine how ridership can be enhanced to projected levels. Rather than eliminate these routes and effectively cut off an important part of the strategy to reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles, MTA should examine timing of service, pick up points, and needs of the workers it is trying to serve.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane * Bethesda, Maryland 20814-5305 * bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

The WMCCAB and members of the BRAC Implementation Committee will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that the expansion at Walter Reed and the continued efforts to support the job centers there and at NIH are supported through an efficient use of existing and new means of moving people in and through the heavily congested area. We appreciate your commitment to making this work for all those concerned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Korman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marc Korman, Chair
Western Montgomery County
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Montgomery County Council
The Honorable Brian Frosh
The Honorable Richard Madaleno
The Honorable C. William Frick
The Honorable Ariana Kelly
The Honorable Susan Lee
The Honorable Alfred Carr
The Honorable Ana Sol Gutierrez
The Honorable Jeffrey Waldstreicher
Arthur Holmes, MCDOT