

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

February 18, 2011

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

The BRAC Implementation Committee (BIC) wishes to convey its support for increased funding for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs, an essential component in the effort to mitigate BRAC-related congestion in Montgomery County. These TDM programs are administered in Transportation Management Districts that offer congestion relief to business districts and nearby residential neighborhoods in Bethesda, Friendship Heights, North Bethesda, Shady Grove and Silver Spring.

We appreciate your efforts, in conjunction with state and federal officials, to fund transit access and intersection construction projects that should provide medium and long term relief from BRAC-related congestion. However, these projects will not be in place to meet the September 2011 deadline to fully establish the BRAC-mandated Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. We need to ensure that TDM programs, which are already in place, can provide effective traffic mitigation when we need it this year.

TDM programs are a cost-effective strategy to reduce congestion. If we provide the necessary resources, we can maximize these programs and provide measurable relief to more commuters and employment centers. However, cuts in expenses such as the printing of promotional literature and a freeze in filling vacant staff positions have already impaired TDM effectiveness. For TDM programs to be effective users must have confidence that they will be there when needed. It takes many years and much public education to build this public confidence. An "on again, off again" approach to TDM and related education programs causes the public to lose confidence in them. Short term budget cuts in these programs would lead to much larger long term costs to rebuild the public trust, not to mention the many year's of increased traffic congestion while this confidence is rebuilt.

The BIC is particularly concerned about the long-term effectiveness of TDM programs and commuter benefits available to the over 44,000 employees in downtown Bethesda. In that regard, the BIC supports increased and sustained coordination of the Bethesda Transportation Management District and Bethesda Transportation Solutions with the transportation management efforts at Naval Support Activity-Bethesda, NIH, and Suburban Hospital.

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Therefore, as you consider the County's budget for the next fiscal year, the BRAC Implementation Committee urges you to give highest consideration to full funding for Transportation Demand Management programs throughout the County.

Again, we appreciate your efforts to address the impacts of BRAC growth in Montgomery County and look forward to continuing our partnership in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. Carman". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a circular stamp or mark at the end.

John H. Carman, Chair
Montgomery County BRAC
Implementation Committee

cc: County Council (via email)