



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

February 18, 2009

Mr. John H. Carman, Chairman
Montgomery County BRAC
Implementation Committee
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear John: *John*

Thank you for your letter of February 3 on behalf of the BRAC Implementation Committee in which you relayed concerns about BRAC-related transportation projects that will address dramatic growth at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda by September 2011. I appreciate the importance that these projects conform to high standards of community livability and sustainability, and the urgent need to ensure coordination among the agencies involved in planning and implementing these projects.

I have been following closely the fine work of the BRAC Implementation Committee and support the transportation projects you highlighted in your matrix. These projects comprise a series of solutions that would discourage the use of single occupancy vehicles (SOVs) while facilitating mobility of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Implementing all of these projects is a significant challenge because, as you know, sufficient funding simply does not exist at the federal, state or local levels in these very difficult times.

The list of projects the BRAC Implementation Committee has devised is comprehensive. These projects complement each other and will best serve the interest of mobility if they are implemented in their entirety, because no single project can fully succeed without the others. I will encourage our federal, state and DOD partners to do the best they can within limited financial resources to promote mobility in the area.

The most important projects, in my view, are those that promote alternative modes of transportation and reduce SOVs. To that end, the best thing we can do is build an east-side entrance and improved pedestrian access to the Medical Center Metro station. While I appreciate the Navy's commitment to a robust Transportation Management Plan and numerous traffic mitigations on and around its campus, the Department of Defense must further acknowledge the impact of BRAC on the community by taking responsibility for the Metro entrance project located on its property. DOD must agree to the NNMC Base Commander's request that this project be certified as eligible for federal funding under the Defense Access Road program and actively seek necessary funding for its construction.

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I support other initiatives that would reduce SOVs. These include improving pedestrian and bicycle paths, enhancing shuttle bus service from outlying areas, and locating kiss-and-ride drop-offs at the campus gates.

Mobility should be a major consideration as the State Highway Administration designs improvements at the four major intersections that can be in place by the September 2011 opening of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. I look forward to knowing the views of the BIC membership when the initial designs are available for public review and input.

I have been committed to leading the effort to ensure that BRAC growth in Bethesda will not have adverse impacts on the community. Congestion mitigation must promote mobility in the area and maintain the quality of life that makes Bethesda a desirable place to live and work. As always, I look forward to working with you and the BRAC Implementation Committee towards this goal.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isiah Leggett", written in a cursive style.

Isiah Leggett
County Executive