



THE GREATER
BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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August 5, 2011

Mr. Phil Alpertson
Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator
Office of County Executive Ike Leggett
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: BCC Chamber Comments on Federal Funding Criteria

Dear Phil:

Thank you for coordinating BIC comments on the federal funding opportunity set forth in the Federal Register notice dated July 21, 2011. On behalf of The Greater Bethesda Chevy-Chase Chamber of Commerce (B-CC Chamber), I am so pleased that we are finally at a point where the Maryland State Highway Administration can submit a proposal to fund the plans we have been discussing for years. At the same time, the Chamber does not want our exuberance over the funding opportunity to cloud our critical review of the selection criteria.

The current criteria are unfairly weighted to advance projects that directly enhance the operations of the medical facility. These criteria should be broadened to assign appropriate value to transportation projects that address the impacts caused by the medical facility expansion, including region-wide traffic relief efforts. Greater weight should also be given to projects in close proximity to the medical facility.

We believe that these changes are consistent with the intent of the underlying appropriation legislation. Moreover, the improved criteria would increase SHA's opportunities to receive full funding for the long-contemplated transportation improvements that will lessen the impacts of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these comments and for your ongoing efforts on behalf of the BIC.

Sincerely,

Ginanne M. Italiano
President & CEO

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