



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

November 25, 2013

Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Executive Office Building (EOB)
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor Conference Room
Rockville, Maryland 20850

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DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERING

RE: Midcounty Corridor Study
May 2013 Draft Environmental Effects Report

Dear Director Holmes:

Staff from the Departments of Planning and Transportation briefed the Planning Board on the May 2013 Draft Environmental Effects Report (MCDOT EER) during the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on November 21, 2013. Following the briefing by the Planning staff and MCDOT staff, the Board received public testimony and discussed the MCDOT EER Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study and the proposal for a parkland mitigation strategy.

During that discussion, the Board supported continued coordination between MCDOT and M-NCPPC Parks Department to develop mitigation for park impacts of a selected alternative that combines park replacement, recreational facilities (e.g. trails) and environmental stewardship projects (e.g. stream restoration, wetland creation, and/or stormwater retrofits). The replacement land should be of equal or greater natural, cultural, and recreational value to that lost due to construction of the road.

After consideration of the staff briefing and public testimony, the Board passed a motion, 3-2, to support the MCDOT EER Alternative 9A, the Master Plan Alignment of Midcounty Highway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a recommendation on this study. If you have any questions or comments concerning our review, please feel free to contact me directly or to contact Mary Dolan, Chief of the Functional Planning & Policy Division, at 301-495-4552.

Sincerely,

Françoise M. Carrier
Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board

cc: Glenn Orlin, Ph.D., Deputy Chief of Staff, Montgomery County Council
Edgar Gonzalez, Deputy Director for Transportation Policy – MCDOT
Aruna Miller, Planning Manager – MCDOT
Greg Hwang, Project Manager – MCDOT