



## MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Luisa Montero-Diaz  
*Mid-County RSC Director*

July 21, 2016

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board would like to address the issue of the MCPS bus depot relocation from the County Service Park/East property at Jeremiah Park. While we are appreciative of your withdrawal of your Executive Order relating to the disposition of the current bus depot property, we stand with our mid-county communities and the County Council in recommending that you only seek permanent bus relocation solutions that are not financially wasteful, environmentally harmful, and do not remove needed recreational space or negatively impact traffic. Temporary solutions are unacceptable as they, more times than not, become permanent solutions that prove to be financially wasteful.

We understand that this has been a very difficult and complicated issue for a number of years. Moving literally hundreds of cars and buses, has a high potential for significant environmental damage and severe impacts on traffic and safety.

We feel that your recent action, in withdrawing your Executive Order, is a positive step in resolving the bus depot relocation issue, but urge you to focus on realistic permanent bus depot alternatives which fulfill the following basic requirements:

1. Not cause grievous harm to the environment
2. Not create additional traffic or safety issues for immediate and nearby communities
3. Preserve much-needed recreational open space
4. Be financially favorable for the County and its residents, not resulting in a waste of funds and resources (especially considering the recent property tax increase)

While we do support the goals of transit-oriented development, we will only support bus depot relocation options that can meet ALL of these site requirements.

We also ask that you provide potentially affected nearby communities with a 90-day review period and public hearing before any decision is made.

With these requirements in mind, we strongly urge that the Blair G. Ewing Center (on Avery Rd) location be immediately removed from any consideration. This location is wholly unsuited for hundreds of buses, which is why a number of our represented communities (including Aspen Hill, Manor Lake, and Flower Valley) have been working together to stop this plan.

Putting a bus depot on Avery Road would:

1. Cause significant environmental damage to Rock Creek Park and the Rock Creek watershed while eliminating an existing forest conservation easement.
2. Further aggravate already impassable traffic congestion on Norbeck Road.
3. Result in even more dangerous conditions on the narrow, two-lane Avery Road.
4. Eliminate the Mark Twain Athletic Park, a popular recreational area, which is heavily used by the surrounding communities and sports leagues.
5. Result in the demolition of a functional MCPS school building (the Blair G. Ewing Center) during this time of rapid growth in attendance and severe school overcrowding.

These serious potential impacts to the environment and traffic, along with the wasteful demolition of a functioning school building and recreational area, should be enough to quell any notion of using the Blair G. Ewing location as a solution for this bus depot relocation issue.

We understand that moving the bus depot is a piece of the overall Smart Growth solution. We request that only an environmentally, economically, and infrastructurally viable replacement site or sites be considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Gregory F. Intoccia,  
Chair

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Council Members