



## MID-COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

Ana L. van Balen  
Director

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

Council President Craig Rice  
100 Maryland Ave,  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett and Council President Rice:

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) would like to express its disagreement with certain transportation priorities recommended by the County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee. At its January 23, 2014 meeting, the Committee recommended that the County's letter to the State regarding transportation priorities for the Maryland Department of Transportation's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) list two projects lower than any of the others in the CTP's Construction Program category: the Committee listed the "MD 97 (Georgia Avenue) Bus Rapid Transit line, Olney to Wheaton," as the 12<sup>th</sup> priority; and listed the "MD 97 (Georgia Avenue/MD 28 (Norbeck Road): grade-separated interchange" as the 13<sup>th</sup> (and lowest) priority.

We believe this recommendation seriously misrepresents mid-county resident needs. We request that the MD 97 Bus Rapid Transit line be listed as the 1<sup>st</sup> priority, and that the Georgia Avenue/MD 28 grade-separated interchange be listed as the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority in the Construction Program category. We believe strongly that both projects will alleviate the high level of traffic congestion in the mid-county region by helping to reduce the large number of vehicles traveling both north-south during the busiest times of the day, and providing a solution to the sizeable traffic congestion caused where the mid-county's major north-south corridor intersects with its major east-west corridor. These traffic problems have existed for too long, and it is evident to those of us who live in the mid-county that action is needed now.

In addition, the MCCAB has supported consistently the concept of Bus Rapid Transit since 2009,<sup>1</sup> and as recent as January 2014, submitted a Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett supporting the MD 97 Bus Rapid Transit line as one that would tremendously benefit county

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<sup>1</sup> MCCAB Letter to Council President Phil Andrews, May 19, 2009; MCCAB Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett, July 29, 2011.

residents.<sup>2</sup> And while we have not recently taken a position on the Georgia Avenue/MD 28 interchange,<sup>3</sup> we have long been aware of significant support in the mid-county region for the project, including the MCCAB. We request that you please take the necessary steps to ensure these critical projects move forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Kieran C. McHargue  
Chairman

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<sup>2</sup> MCCAB Letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett, January 29, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> On August 6, 2009, MCCAB placed on its recommended list for the County's FY-11 Capital Improvements Priorities "Grade Separated interchange at 97 and 28."