



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 5, 2014

Mr. Isiah Leggett
County Executive
101 Monroe Street 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Mr. Craig Rice
Council President
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Ms. Cherri Branson
5th District Councilmember
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

RE: SSCAB advices that the Washington DC Street Car Integrate with Silver Spring Transit Station

Dear County Executive Leggett, Council President Rice and Councilmember Branson,

At the March 10th meeting of the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, we received presentations on the Purple Line and the DC's Georgia Avenue Streetcar—two major transportation projects in and around the Silver Spring Regional. The impacts that these two projects and the potential Bus Rapid Transit will have on our community will be immense, presenting both great opportunities and potential pitfalls. One of the problems we see is that both DC and Montgomery County will invest large amounts of resources into their respective projects without sufficient coordination between the two jurisdictions. Right now the current plan for the Georgia Avenue Streetcar is to stop at either Takoma DC or continue to the DC-MD border near Silver Spring.

As anyone who understands how transit works in large metropolitan areas will appreciate, the most efficient systems are the best integrated, allowing people to move throughout a region using all means and methods at their disposal. In the case of downtown Silver Spring, which is not only an active Metro and MARC station, but a hub for many of the County's buses, having the Purple Line will allow more people to move through the area without relying on a car. This has the benefits of reducing the strain on our roads, improving our air quality and increasing mobility for those whom the expense of owning a car is not possible.

This continuation of effective integration between systems is why the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board would like **to encourage Montgomery County's officials to engage as soon as possible with the District's Department of Transportation to ensure that there is an effective interface of the Georgia Avenue Streetcar over the border with the transit hub in downtown Silver Spring.** This doesn't mean that Takoma Park couldn't or shouldn't be served as well. However, considering the volume of passengers that Silver Spring currently handles via public transportation and will handle should the BRT be built, it seems obvious that a Silver Spring transit hub would be in the best interests of both DC and Montgomery County residents, as it would create a truly regional network by assuring an interface of the streetcar line with the Silver Spring. **We feel that the proposed Georgia Avenue Streetcar should be an integral part of this larger network, moving people in a way that reflects their actual lives rather than the specific jurisdictions where they may reside.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Evan Glass
Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Cc: At Large Councilmembers

