

January 26, 2009

Ms. Kristi Horvath
Policy Associate
Maryland Public Interest Research Group
3121 St Paul Street, Suite 26
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Re: Rockville's support for the Maryland PIRG Transportation Bill Funding Priorities

Dear Ms. Horvath:

I am writing to you to communicate Rockville's support for the principles and priorities Maryland PIRG has articulated for Congress to follow when crafting the reauthorizations and appropriations of future Federal Transportation Bills.

As you may know, the City of Rockville has embarked on a series of efforts aimed at making our community more sustainable and environmentally friendly. We have recently adopted a five-year, multi-pronged sustainability strategy for the City of Rockville. Our strategy addresses water quality, land use, and energy efficiencies among other issues, but we are particularly concerned about the local and regional effects of global climate change. To address this critical issue, Rockville is working to find ways to reduce and ultimately eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in our area.

Rockville shares PIRG's view that funding priorities should be given for mass transit projects, including light rail, commuter rail, rapid bus service, and high-speed intercity rail. We strongly agree that the repair, restoration, and revitalization of existing transportation systems is vital to our economy and our nation. Further, we concur that transportation monies should be spent on efforts that reduce the nation's dependence on oil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, alleviate congestion, improve safety, and support sustainable communities.

Should you have any questions or comments on this matter, please contact me or call Mark Charles, Rockville's Chief of Environmental Management at 240-314-8871.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Hoffmann
Mayor

Cc: Scott Ullery, Rockville City Manager
Craig L. Simoneau, PE, Rockville Director of Public Works
Mark Charles, Rockville Chief of Environmental Management