

November 16, 2010

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Nancy Floreen
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject: Consolidated Transportation Program Priorities (CTP)

Dear Mr. Leggett and Ms. Floreen:

This letter communicates the City of Rockville's Transportation funding priorities for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). For several years, the Corridor Cities Transitway, the interchange at I-270/W. Gude Drive and the grade-separated interchange at MD355/Gude Drive for development and evaluation programming, have been included in the County's transportation Joint Priority letter forwarded to the Montgomery County State Delegation.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation indicated the State's Transportation Trust Fund revenues are beginning to stabilize, and the County is planning on submitting an updated letter in February 2011. We are sending this letter well in advance so that you have sufficient time to review our priorities and incorporate them into your letter.

In addition to the above projects, already included in the development and evaluation programming, the Mayor and Council support the following three priorities to be considered for inclusion in Montgomery County's updated Joint Priority letter. The first one was included in the City's previous letter dated November 13, 2008, and the other two are new priorities:

1. Initiate a Study to Build a Pedestrian Bridge At MD 355 and the Twinbrook Metro Station.

In Mr. Leggett's response to our 2008 CTP letter, he noted that a study to increase pedestrian safety at MD 355 and the Twinbrook Metro Station was not included in the County's current priority list, and that the City should be more specific and refine the scope of the project. Rockville has refined the scope and is requesting the following project be considered for inclusion in the County's priority list.

A study to explore the feasibility of constructing a covered pedestrian bridge to cross MD 355 in the vicinity of Bouic Avenue and Halpine Road, similar to the one built over MD 355 at the Rockville Metro station, would greatly enhance pedestrian safety in this area. It would also encourage more commuters to use Metro, and would promote increased pedestrian transport to shopping and other amenities. This stretch of MD 355 is highly dangerous and unfriendly to pedestrians. This project would provide a safe route for pedestrians to cross MD 355 and access the Metro and other nearby destinations – such as Congressional Plaza – without having to entertain the dangerous proposition of coming into contact with motorists traveling on MD 355.

2. Rockville Pike Multi-Way Boulevard.

This project is a new request that originated from the Draft Rockville Pike Plan. In the spring of 2009, Rockville submitted this project as a request through the federal Transportation Equity Act reauthorization. Since MD 355 is a State roadway, the City is in the process of coordinating with MDOT on a vision for Rockville Pike, as well as working to garner MDOT support for the project. If the State were to include this project in the CTP it would increase the prospects for the federal funding to be awarded.

This project will complete the Planning, Engineering & Design (PE&D) and right-of-way services for the Rockville Pike Multi-Way Boulevard. The project extends over 2.2 miles along Rockville Pike from Rollins Avenue to Richard Montgomery Drive near the Rockville Town Center. It also serves as an extension of the White Flint Sector Plan, which will increase multimodal transportation opportunities in the County portion of MD 355. The City's boulevard concept design maintains the same 84' curb-to-curb section that accommodates the current six travel-lanes, but expands it to include ample sidewalks, a two-lane Access Road on both sides (with one lane devoted to buses and bicycles), one lane of parallel parking, streetscape and streetlights, upgrade of traffic control devices, underground overhead electric wires/utilities, and a tree-lined island to protect local traffic and pedestrians from through traffic, on both sides of MD 355.

This project will improve pedestrian safety on MD 355, increase the use of multimodal transit, and create healthier lifestyles associated with greater pedestrian activity in the area.

3. I-270/MD 28 Southbound On-Ramp

This is a new request from the City of Rockville. For more than a decade, during the weekday morning rush hour, there is significant congestion for traffic traveling eastbound on MD 28 to access the I-270 southbound ramp. A recent study conducted by Montgomery County showed that this intersection is currently operating at a failing level of service. Congestion is expected to significantly increase with the traffic generated from the Great Seneca Science Corridor Plan, which is expected to place significant growth pressure on Rockville intersections near or adjacent to the planning area. Clearly, there is a pressing need for increased capacity at the I-270 southbound on-ramp.

Residents of the nearby Rockshire neighborhood are concerned because the heavy congestion makes it difficult to exit their neighborhood and access MD 28 and I-270. It is particularly troublesome that the intersection of MD 28 at Hurley Avenue is often in a state of total gridlock during the morning rush hour. This project will bring much needed traffic congestion relief and will improve traffic safety in the area.

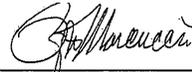
Montgomery County's continued support of Rockville's transportation priorities and inclusion of the requests in the County's CTP priority list is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to advocate for these essential projects. Please contact Emad Elshafei, Chief of Traffic and Transportation at 240-314-8508 or at eelshafei@rockvillemd.gov if you need any clarification about these recommendations.

The Honorable Isiah Leggett and Honorable Nancy Floreen

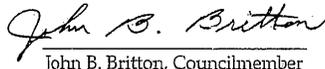
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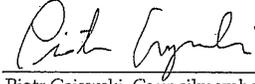
Sincerely,



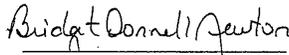
Phyllis Marcuccio, Mayor



John B. Britton, Councilmember



Piotr Gajewski, Councilmember



Bridget Newton, Councilmember



Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember

cc: Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council
Art Holmes Jr., Director of Montgomery County Transportation
Scott Ullery, Rockville City Manager
Craig Simoneau, Rockville Public Works Director
Emad Elshafei, Chief of Traffic and Transportation
Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager