

October 19, 2011

Ralign T. Wells, Administrator  
Maryland Transit Administration  
6 St. Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202-1614

Subject: Intercounty Connector (ICC) Proposed Bus Service Plan Public Record Comments

Dear Mr. Wells:

The City of Rockville is pleased to take this opportunity to comment on the Intercounty Connector Bus Service Plan. The opening of the ICC is long awaited and much anticipated. Multi-Modal and regional transportation have been longstanding priorities of the Rockville Mayor and Council.

Rockville supports the Proposed ICC Bus Service Plan, which provides a mass transit option for commuters. The City supports this new infrastructure that will provide transportation connections and expedite travel between some of Maryland's most heavily populated counties including: Montgomery, Howard, and Prince George's. It will also help relieve congestion on some heavily traveled state roads in the City of Rockville such as MD 586 and MD 28.

Rockville reviewed the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) Proposed ICC Bus Service Plan. The following information summarizes Rockville's comments:

- Overall, we believe it's beneficial to have the Gaithersburg to BWI Airport route operating on a seven-day per week schedule. An improvement that would increase service accessibility is to consider running the other four ICC bus routes on a seven-day per week schedule.
- We are pleased to know the Shady Grove Metro station, which is just outside the City of Rockville, is included in the routes noted below:
  - ICC Bus Route #201, Gaithersburg to BWI Airport;
  - ICC Bus Route #202, Gaithersburg to NSA/Fort Meade;
  - ICC Bus Route #204 – Urbana to College Park; and
  - ICC Bus Route #205 – Greenbelt Metro to Germantown Transit Center.

The King Farm development located in the City of Rockville is immediately across the street from the Shady Grove Metro. The proposed ICC bus service has the potential to be used by many King Farm residents and

provides an alternative to traveling by motor vehicle. King Farm is a neo-traditional, urban, mixed-use development that contains approximately 3,500 residential units and a population of about 8,000. King Farm's mixed-use nature, density levels, and close proximity to the Shady Grove Metro Metro station make it a Smart Growth development. Additionally, King Farm is an employment center with approximately 6,000 jobs with growth expected. Many King Farm residents use the Shady Grove Metro to commute to work, to travel to leisure activities, and other destinations.

Rockville also recommends that MTA add stops throughout the City of Rockville to these routes such as Rockville Town Square and the Rockville Metro/MARC station. There are many residents who live in this area that would benefit from the proposed ICC service.

Rockville's Town Square is an urban mixed-use development that contains 644 residential units and approximately 1,300 residents. It is a model smart growth development built just a few short blocks from the Rockville Metro/Marc station. Wide sidewalks and a plaza are key features of this pedestrian and transit-oriented development. Other uses include forty-six businesses and restaurants, the Rockville Memorial Library, and the Vis Arts Metropolitan Center for the Visual Arts. In the adjacent area to this new development in the Town Center area are two large multifamily buildings. The Americana Centre contains approximately 428 units and 897 residents, and the Victoria condominium contains 143 units and 300 residents. Rockville's downtown is also the seat of the Montgomery County government; is an employment center with 11,000 jobs, and additional jobs growth is expected.

- We are pleased to know that the Rockville Metro/Marc Station is included in the ICC Bus Route #203, Columbia to Bethesda. This enhanced service provides an additional transit option to those who work and visit Town Square. It will also contribute to enhancing economic activity in the downtown Rockville core.
- The schedule detail listed in the table on the final page of the plan contains some unclear information. Specifically, the Columbia to Bethesda route, under the column entitled "Service Span", notes the service runs from "3 am trips, 3 pm trips, 1 mid-day, and Monday through Friday." The information should be clearly explained so that when commuters plan their trips they can easily understand the route schedule and service frequency.

Maryland Transit Administration

October 19, 2010

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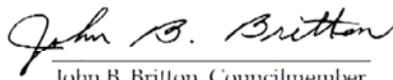
Rockville thanks MTA for this opportunity to comment and include this letter as part of the public record on this matter. If you should have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Emad Elshafei, Chief of Traffic and Transportation at 240-

314-8508 or [eelshafei@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:eelshafei@rockvillemd.gov) or Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager, at 240-314-8115 or [lmoran@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:lmoran@rockvillemd.gov).

Sincerely,



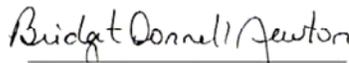
Phyllis Marcuccio, Mayor



John B. Britton, Councilmember



Piotr Gajewski, Councilmember



Bridget Newton, Councilmember



Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember

cc: Scott Ullery, City Manager  
Craig Simoneau, Public Works Director  
Emad Elshafei, Chief of Traffic and Transportation  
Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager