



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of Montgomery County, MD, Inc.

October 10, 2014

Mr. Douglas Simmons
Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Planning, Engineering, Real Estate and Environment
Maryland State Highway Administration Division
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

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In re: state/county coordination, county master plans, and BRT

Dear Mr. Simmons and other SHA staff:

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County has long supported projects that benefit citizens and are kind to the environment. In reviewing some local SHA projects in the planning stage, we are confounded by some SHA decisions that apparently ignore Montgomery County's recently amended Countywide Corridors Functional Master Plan.

This Master Plan clearly states a desire for an integrated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System along these corridors to help alleviate congestion while making minimal impact to both neighbors and the environment.

The three specific plans we reference are (1) MD 97 Montgomery Hills Project, (2) MD 97 BRT Glenmont to Olney, and (3) US 29 from Musgrove Road to Fairland Road Interchange Improvement Project.

While we are reminded frequently that the Washington DC area has some of the worst traffic conditions in the country and concur that remediation is necessary, the current plans do not suffice. Please note the following:

- Implementing minimally invasive BRT will help to alleviate traffic and help to reduce air pollution in the region.
- BRT can cross jurisdictions to help solve regional congestion on traffic corridors.
- BRT does not have to widen current lanes in an invasive way as it can be implemented in more of a surgical manner.
- Current interchanges may be sufficient with BRT remediation.
- Narrower roads can be made friendly to bikers and pedestrians with their own accommodation.



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Please take the Montgomery County Countywide Corridors Functional Master Plan into consideration and coordinate your SHA projects with that vision to better serve the citizens of our county. We also hope that you will inform us of your approach to rectifying this problem.

Yours truly,

Linna Barnes, President