



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

January 30, 2015

**In re: Montgomery County Delegation Public Bill Hearing on January 30, 2015,
on MC 24-15 Montgomery County - Transit Authority**

To: Members of the Montgomery County State Legislative Delegation:

Based on prior studies and evaluative discussions, the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) is supportive of the following policies regarding transit and transportation:

- Increasing transit alternatives and the use of transit
- Creating better transportation access for all residents
- Funding of infrastructure in the fairest way possible
- Promoting mechanisms that can lead to a cleaner environment

To assist the delegation, the public, and LWV members in evaluating the merits of Bill MC 24-15, we ask the following questions:

- Will the public have adequate input in the formation of a Transit Authority?
- What positive and negative effects may be consequences of this bill?
- Is creating this Transit Authority the only way that bus rapid transit (BRT) will be built?
- What effect will a local Transit Authority have on the creation of transportation districts?
- Will a Transit Authority enable the county transportation systems to be well organized, efficient, and capable of reaching the greatest possible number of residents?

In addition --

- Will asking the state for permission to fund major transportation projects locally lessen the sense of responsibility on the part of the state to fund such projects -- given that the entire state benefits from investment in infrastructure?
- Will this affect the amount of money that Montgomery County will receive from the state?

Since the creation of a Transit Authority currently appears to be a positive step that could help Montgomery County to reach the goals of LWVMC, we look forward to hearing more debate both here and in the Maryland General Assembly.

Yours truly,

Barbara Ditzler, Chair, Transportation and Land Use Committee

On behalf of
Linna Barnes, President