



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

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October 17, 2017

**Re: Resolution Regarding Transportation Solutions for Northwest Montgomery County**

Council Chair Berliner and members of the County Council:

**The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) agrees that solutions to transportation problems in the northwest part of the county should be reviewed.**

Master plans are developed as a vision for tomorrow but are part of yesterday's decisions. Today is an opportunity to review those decisions with this resolution and modify them.

**Why should this master plan decision of M-83 be reviewed?**

Our county has changed in many ways since M-83 was proposed to solve future congestion problems and was thus incorporated into the master plan. A major concern with this past decision is that today as we look at the area, we see different potential problems and possibly different future priorities.

**How does M-83 affect the environment?**

The League agrees that there is much potential for environmental degradation if M-83 is implemented as it was conceived, or with one of its many modifications.

We now better understand the importance of maintaining a watershed as pristine as possible. Today, we better understand the concept of induced demand because of poor land use and transportation planning. By disregarding a built M-83 in land use plans for Gaithersburg East and Germantown, we are able to implement more environmentally-friendly patterns of land development. Changing yesterday's vision for tomorrow's land use is important in that today our county looks at many alternatives for transportation that weren't considered in the past.

**Why should more transit be considered in lieu of M-83?**

LWVMC agrees that implementing transit solutions on both county and interstate roads is a logical approach to alleviating congestion. We have testified in favor of a BRT system on Route 355 and the Corridor Cities Transitway, and we support using transit and car-pooling as well on I-270. If expansion of I-270 is deemed necessary, we urge the county to investigate methods with as little environmental impact as possible; reversible lanes certainly seem like they should be under consideration.

Today's decisions about this resolution are important to help place tomorrow's vision in better focus.

**Relying on visions of land use and transportation from yesterday may prove costly to the county's environment, sustainable practices, and prudent development.**

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County supports this Resolution.

Yours truly,

Nancy Bliss, president, and Barbara Ditzler, transportation committee chair