

July 15, 2019

**Montgomery County Council**

**In re: Public Testimony July 16, 2019 hearing - Supplemental appropriation and amendment to FY20 Capital Budget and FY19-24 CIP-\$3,000,000 for Bus Rapid Transit: MD 35 and amendment to FY20 Capital Budget and FY19-24 CIP-\$1,000,000 for Bus Rapid Transit: Veirs Mill Corridor**

**LWVMC position: Support**

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC) supports the inclusion of more mobility and reliability on both Hwy 355 and Veirs Mill Road as part of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system.

Here are some questions that residents should be asking:

- What kind of BRT system will people want to ride?
  - One that will be the fastest and most convenient.
- Will the county provide more information to make decisions about the BRT system?
  - Yes. There are still unknowns about the Route 355 and Veirs Mill Road corridor.
- Are there more areas where a dedicated lane can be implemented?
  - We don't know for sure, but dedicated lanes mean faster travel and should be implemented.
- Could BRT on Route 355 and Veirs Mill Road be more efficient with more dedicated lanes?
  - Research points to dedicated lanes for both numbers of riders and speed of travel. We support transit with dedicated lanes when possible.
- Could median busways be implemented in any areas?
  - It's a consideration. Are MDOT, County Council and the County Executive considering? Let's get the most ridership and the fastest speed. Lanes in the middle or lanes by sidewalks may both be utilized.
- Has the public been involved in developing both BRT systems?
  - Yes -- and more public meetings will be scheduled

Obviously, there are still some questions to be answered. Consequently, LWVMC supports a transparent and open process for planned BRT with emphasis on dedicated lanes of travel. Funds may be part of the plan to help answer questions that have not been fully investigated. More information will help the county to make the most informed decisions possible for this BRT corridor. We support improved mobility for the county through transit.

Sincerely,

Kathy McGuire and Diane Hibino, presidents