



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Secretary

Harold M. Bartlett
Deputy Secretary

September 25, 2009

The Honorable Phil Andrews
Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville MD 20850

Dear Mr. Andrews:

This letter is to clarify our previous correspondence from September 15, 2009. It is our understanding that the content of that letter apparently raised questions among some elected officials regarding the position of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on the Gaithersburg West proposal. Specifically, there appears to be some confusion regarding the Department's request for a delay in a scheduled vote by the County Council on the plan. Allow me to address these issues.

First, we suggested that the County delay adoption of the plan until the MTA's analysis of the realignment of the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) was complete. This suggestion is particularly important because we know the County shares our view that any modification of the CCT increase its benefits and cost effectiveness as it is defined for the purpose of obtaining federal funding. Also, the Department wants to be in a position of being able to advance the CCT as it is called for in the Sector Plan to support the overall staging of development.

Second, we expect the results of our study to be available within three to four weeks. We and the County both believe the policies and land uses proposed will strengthen the CCT and increase the transit mode share within the Sector Plan area. We recognize the County's preference to proceed with adoption of the Sector Plan in a timely manner. We look forward to continuing to work with the County on the concerns we have raised regarding highway needs and funding constraints.

Thank you again for allowing the MDOT to provide comments on the Gaithersburg West Sector Plan. We are sorry if our letter of September 15, 2009 caused any confusion with respect to the Department's position on this very important project. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-865-1275 or dhalligan@mdot.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

Don Halligan, Director
Office of Planning and Capital Programming

cc: The Honorable Nancy Floreen, Chair, Transportation and Environment Committee, Montgomery County Council
The Honorable Isiah Leggett, County Executive, Montgomery County
Mr. Thomas Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Montgomery County
Ms. Beverley Swaim-Staley, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation

My telephone number is 410-865-1000
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