



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

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TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

December 18, 2017

Mr. Al Roshdieh
Director
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Director Roshdieh,

Earlier this year, the County Council requested MCDOT submit a supplemental appropriation request in order to study the concept of median dedicated Bus Rapid Transit lanes on US 29 between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway. We understand MCDOT prepared such a study, but the County Executive branch has not advanced the associated appropriation request given our County's current budget challenges.

We ask that MCDOT find funding in its existing budget to begin this study. While the County Executive's BRT proposal for US 29 will provide much-needed high-quality transit service, it will feature dedicated bus lanes for less than 40% of the corridor, all of which will be north of the congested area between Sligo Creek Parkway and New Hampshire Avenue. In May, after it became clear that the State Highway Administration was open to the idea of shrinking travel lane widths to allow for median dedicated bus lanes, the Council made clear its view that we must study such a concept between White Oak and Silver Spring as the next phase of BRT on US 29.

The median dedicated BRT lanes proposed for further study between New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway could help maximize ridership and travel time savings, creating a higher quality of service within the existing roadway while retaining six travel lanes throughout.

We will not know the full potential for this concept until we do the detailed study requested by the Council. We ask that MCDOT prioritize this study by looking for the funds to carry it out without a supplemental appropriation.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Roger Berliner
Chairman, T&E Committee
District 1



Hans Riemer
Council President
At-Large



Marc Elrich
At-Large



Tom Hucker
District 5



George Leventhal
At-Large



Nancy Navarro
District 4

CC: Glenn Orlin, Deputy Council Administrator, Montgomery County Council