

February 3, 2021

Senator Dolores G. Kelley
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Maryland State Senate
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB242- TRANSPORTATION -270 COMMUTER BUS ROUTE STUDY
POSITION: OPPOSE

Dear Chairwoman Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our 500-member businesses and more than 45,000 employees in Montgomery County, this statement is in **Opposition to SB242-Transportation-270 Commuter Bus Route Study**. This bill which focuses on the need to require MDOT to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing a commuter bus route to serve population centers along I-270 is a meritorious effort but is not actually required. Current efforts associated with the ongoing P3 project, which is presently in the procurement stage with construction expected to commence in 2022 will indeed evaluate such options.

In addition, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning presently has underway a similar study entitled, "The Corridor Forward Plan" which will produce a prioritized list of transit options. It will also include a plan for implementation including a timeline and the resources necessary for adequate transit to be provided for residents and employees in the I-270 corridor. This study is actively underway with completion expected towards the end of this calendar year. In addition, the State has already been conducting a study of possible transit routes as part and parcel of its P-3 Program which seeks to add toll lanes to I-270 in an extraordinarily important effort to ease congestion in the transportation infrastructure-starved UpCounty.

Accordingly, the need for the subject study outlined in HB116 is questionable, redundant and a wasteful use of limited resources during a critical economic time when our funds are stretched and sorely limited. Let's focus on the work already at hand that seeks to ameliorate the transit options in Montgomery County's I-270 corridor. This bill is **not** needed. Thank you for your consideration of our remarks.

Sincerely,



Allie Williams
President & CEO