Resolution No.:	16-05
Introduced:	December 5, 2006
Adopted:	December 12, 2006

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: Council Vice-President Knapp and Councilmembers Floreen, Leventhal, Ervin and Berliner

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SUBJECT: Support for the Purple Line, Corridor Cities Transitway, and H.R. 3496

Background

1. The most pressing regional transportation priorities are the Bi-County Transitway (Purple Line), the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), and House Resolution 3496 (H.R. 3496), which would guarantee funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

2. By mid-2007 the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) intends to complete Draft Environmental Impact Statements for:
   - the Bi-County Transitway (Purple Line), a 14-mile transit line from Bethesda to New Carrollton, and also serving Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, Langley Park, the University of Maryland, College Park, and Riverdale; and
   - the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), a 13.5-mile transit line between Shady Grove and Clarksburg, and also serving the Research & Development Village, Gaithersburg, and Germantown.

3. H.R. 3496 would provide $1.5 billion of Federal aid over the next ten years for WMATA. This bill also would require Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia together to dedicate a matching $1.5 billion over the same period and would include Federal representatives as members of WMATA's Board of Directors.

4. During the 2006 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed HB 1345 and SB 850 (which the Governor signed) requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to undertake a comprehensive study of the 20-year estimates for operating and capital costs for transit. The study is to look at funding systems in similar state and local jurisdictions and develop new funding strategies necessary to leverage federal funding. The state has created the Transit Funding Steering Committee in response to this legislation.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. The Council expresses its strong support for the Bi-County Transitway (Purple Line) and Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), and it urges the Maryland Department of Transportation to proceed expeditiously to the design and construction of these projects. For both the Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway, the Council supports:
   - a generally at-grade light rail line that is primarily on its own right of way;
   - excellent service linking the places identified in the Background section of this resolution;
   - completion of a hiker-biker trail alongside the Purple Line from Bethesda to Silver Spring and the Corridor Cities Transitway for its entire length; and
   - a community- and environmentally-friendly design that mitigates negative impacts in a cost-effective manner without impeding the speedy implementation of these projects.

2. The Council strongly urges Congress to pass H.R. 3496 or substantially similar legislation to provide WMATA with a desperately needed infusion of revenue to keep up with the maintenance of its existing infrastructure and to acquire enough rail cars and buses to relieve overcrowding.

3. The Council strongly urges the State of Maryland to provide resources for transit that will meet the funding requirements in support of the federal legislation.

4. The Council also recognizes that in order for the State of Maryland to fund the Purple Line, the Corridor Cities Transitway, and other critical transportation infrastructure, significant supplemental revenue sources will be required. The Council intends to work cooperatively with the General Assembly to develop a mix of resources that will provide this necessary funding. From an environmental, energy, and transportation policy perspective, the Council believes that an increase in the state gasoline tax is one appropriate means to provide supplemental transit funding and urges the General Assembly to approve such an increased, as well as other substantial revenue enhancement.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council