

Resolution No.: 18-957
Introduced: September 19, 2017
Adopted: October 31, 2017

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council Vice President Riemer
Co-Sponsors: Council President Berliner and Councilmembers Elrich, Navarro, and Leventhal

SUBJECT: Transportation Solutions for Northwest Montgomery County

Background

1. Mobility for Upcounty residents is limited due to congestion and a lack of public transportation alternatives to I-270, MD 355, and other roads serving Clarksburg, Germantown, Montgomery Village, Gaithersburg and surrounding areas.
2. Four major infrastructure projects serving this area are envisioned in county master plans, including expanded capacity on I-270, the Corridor Cities Transitway, Bus Rapid Transit on or near MD 355, and the extension of Midcounty Highway (M-83) north of Montgomery Village Avenue.
3. For many years, there has been no clear consensus to extend Midcounty Highway to the north, yet master plans have assumed the availability of such an extension to put these plans in balance between land use and transportation.
4. Montgomery County is committed to protecting our environment and doing our part to stem the carbon emissions that are driving global climate change, as demonstrated in the following actions:
 - a. Resolution 18-846, adopted on June 20, 2017, reaffirmed the Council's commitment to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.
 - b. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation has adopted a Sustainability Policy that commits that the County will “Plan and implement a transportation system that broadly considers ecosystem and climate impacts, reduces and prevents waste and pollution, uses renewable resources, uses sustainable sources of energy and reduces energy consumption.”
 - c. The Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan, approved by the Council in 2013, states that “Expanding transit infrastructure through more efficient use of public rights-of-way is essential if current and future congestion is

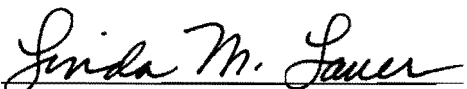
to be mitigated. In addition to reducing Countywide travel time for drivers, an expanded transit network is necessary to support the County's land use, environmental, and economic development goals and make transit a reliable alternative to driving in the County's developed core."

Action

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

1. The Council supports expanded capacity on I-270, the Corridor Cities Transitway, Bus Rapid Transit on or near MD 355, and improvements on MD 355. These improvements will provide significant, immediate relief for Upcounty residents. These improvements align with our economic development strategies, providing the broadest and most diverse benefits, and minimize impervious surface, stormwater runoff, carbon emissions, and other environmental impacts.
2. The Council directs the Montgomery County Planning Board not to assume additional road capacity from the northern extension of Midcounty Highway when calculating the land use - transportation balance in future master plans, including but not limited to the upcoming Gaithersburg East Master Plan and the Germantown Plan for Town Sector Zone. This step ensures that any new development allowed under these plans does not rely on the northern extension of Midcounty Highway, while retaining the right-of-way for this extension in these plans.

This is a correct copy of Council action.


Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council