

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
MARYLAND

www.cardin.senate.gov

509 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2004
(202) 224-4524

TOWER 1, SUITE 1710
100 S. CHARLES STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201
(410) 962-4436

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

April 18, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

It has come to our attention that Montgomery County, Maryland has recently submitted a proposal for funding under the TIGER VIII grant program for its US 29 Bus Rapid Transit project.

More than 166,000 people moved to Montgomery County between 2000 and 2015 and another 162,000 are expected by 2040. This rapid growth has spurred new investment and planning along the US 29 corridor which struggles daily with crippling traffic congestion for both County residents and regional commuters. Montgomery County's US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line with managed High Occupancy Vehicle lanes and expanded bike share will improve transit reliability between high-density neighborhoods in Montgomery County and provide immediate and positive benefits to residents in adjacent suburban counties and the District of Columbia. The project is part of the County's continuing investment to enhance quality of life for over 120,000 residents who live on or near the US 29 corridor, an increasingly diverse populations which is 65 percent minority, 32 percent foreign born, and 30 percent classified as "very low income."

Creating strong transportation connections that include improving opportunities for disadvantaged communities to access employment and education centers is a prime objective in Montgomery County's TIGER grant request. We respectfully request that you give all due consideration to this application, in accordance with established policies and procedures. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2003
www.sarbanes.house.gov

April 20, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my strong support for Montgomery County's application to the US Department of Transportation's FY 16 TIGER VIII grant program for funding to establish Bus Rapid Transit and High Occupancy Vehicle lanes along the Route 29 corridor. With this funding, Montgomery County will build upon the existing transportation choices and improve the public transit infrastructure serving major suburban neighborhoods near the nation's capital.

Montgomery County's application will feature High Occupancy Vehicle lanes and a US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line, including eleven BRT stations and an interconnected bike share network. With over 120,000 residents living on or near this congested corridor, a number expected to grow, the BRT and expanded bike share will improve the quality of life for communities that live along and depend upon this important transit corridor. The project will connect these high-density population centers with some of the major employers in the region, including the Food and Drug Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Discovery Communications. Residents will not only see improved reliability and usefulness in public transit, but they will have more options in how they choose to travel about the region.

I ask that you provide all appropriate consideration for the application of Montgomery County to the US Department of Transportation's FY 16 TIGER VIII program.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

JPS/jl

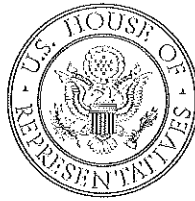
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1632 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2721
FAX: (202) 225-2193



JOHN K. DELANEY
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
6TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

DISTRICT OFFICES:

GAITHERSBURG
9801 WASHINGTONIAN BOULEVARD
SUITE 330
GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND 20878
PHONE: (301) 926-0300
FAX: (301) 926-0324

HAGERSTOWN
38 SOUTH POTOMAC STREET
SUITE 205
HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21740
PHONE: (301) 733-2900
FAX: (301) 926-0324

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.DELANEY.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.DELANEY.HOUSE.GOV)

April 20, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to express my support for Montgomery County, Maryland's, application for funding for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit Improvements (BRT) through USDOT's TIGER competitive grant program.

The US 29 BRT project proposed by the County will improve transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections in a heavily congested corridor that includes Howard and Prince George's Counties as well as the District of Columbia. New higher speed and high frequency bus service will be provided as well as accessible pedestrian and bike sharing improvements that will connect riders to high density housing, and employment and education centers. Montgomery County's commitment to environmental sustainability and livable communities makes this project a good candidate for TIGER funding. The total project cost is estimated at \$65 million of which Montgomery County expects to provide a 50 percent match.

Locally and nationally, I believe smart investment in transportation infrastructure equals jobs, a stronger private sector and a better quality of life which will benefit my constituents.

I sincerely appreciate all due consideration and attention be given to this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John K. Delaney".

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2016

1707 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5341

DISTRICT OFFICES:
51 MONROE STREET, #507
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
(301) 424-3501

205 CENTER STREET
SUITE 206
MOUNT AIRY, MD 21771
(301) 829-2171

www.vanhollen.house.gov

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to offer my strong support for Montgomery County, Maryland's application for funding in the eighth round of USDOT's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program.

Currently, US Route 29 in Maryland lacks a high-quality, convenient and reliable transit connection from Burtonsville to Silver Spring. Montgomery County's US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project proposal will increase transit access and reliability, advance connections in the fast-growing jobs corridor shared by Montgomery, Howard and Prince George's Counties and the District of Columbia, and support planned and existing mixed-use development on or near the congested roadway.

One of the foremost barriers to upward economic mobility is the lack of actual mobility. The US 29 BRT project features 11 BRT stations in three sectors of the corridor and will serve more than 120,000 people who live within one-half mile of the planned stations. Sixty-five percent of those residents are minorities, 32% are foreign-born, 30% are low-income, and 12% have no access to an automobile. Montgomery County plans to provide a 50% match for the project's cost.

Linking disadvantaged communities to job centers through improved transportation options makes this TIGER grant request an ideal candidate for funding. I urge the most serious consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Pete K. Rahn
Secretary

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's application for United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VIII Discretionary Grant Program for their US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

We appreciate USDOT's leadership and dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for Marylanders. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. The project will improve safety and reduce travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and transit users and will provide for increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Montgomery County Department of Transportation Director, at 240-777-7170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete K. Rahn", with a large, stylized "P" and "K" and a signature flourish.

Pete K. Rahn
Secretary

cc: Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Honorable Anthony Foxx
Page Two

bcc: Ms. Deborah Haynie, Federal Legislative Officer, Office of Government Affairs, MDOT
Mr. Curtis Johnson, Policy Analyst, Office of Planning and Capital Programming,
MDOT
Mr. John G. Trueschler, Director, Officer, Office of Government Affairs, MDOT



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

March 25, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express our support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit project. Upon successful grant award, Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project. We appreciate your leadership on the USDOT's dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our citizens. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. The project will improve safety and reduce travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians; and transit users and allow increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

The future economic vitality of Montgomery County depends on increased transportation investment to accommodate more residents and to encourage job growth. One of my highest priorities is to provide world-class transportation options for those who live and work throughout the County. These options are critical to providing congestion relief and unlocking the region's economic potential. I strongly believe that developing an efficient and effective Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system is critical to our county's continued economic growth, mobility, and vitality.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support in funding these important projects. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT and the Maryland Department of Transportation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, MCDOT at (240) 777-7170.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

IL:db:kcf

cc: Al Roshdieh, Director, MCDOT

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Your agency will soon be receiving a grant application from Montgomery County for funding consideration of their US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) proposal for funding consideration under the TIGER VIII competitive grant program. I am writing to draw your attention to the merits of this application and to urge you to give it every appropriate consideration.

The US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line with managed High Occupancy Vehicle lanes and expanded bike share will improve transit reliability between high-density neighborhoods in Montgomery County and provide immediate and positive benefits to residents in adjacent suburban counties and the District of Columbia. Howard County and the District of Columbia, which border Montgomery County to the north and south, respectively, are in the process of planning and implementing BRT infrastructure along their portions of US 29. The number of daily commuter trips between the jurisdictions meets the demand for a cohesive transit service.

With just over one million residents, Montgomery County has the largest population of any Maryland county. More than 166,000 people moved to the County between 2000 and 2015 and another 162,000 are expected by 2040. This rapid growth has spurred new investment and planning along the US 29 corridor which struggles daily with crippling traffic congestion for both County residents and regional commuters. The proposed US 29 BRT project, located on the eastern side of Montgomery County, is a critical part of that investment that will enhance the quality of life for over 120,000 residents who live on or near the corridor representing a snapshot of America's increasingly diverse suburbs.

Creating strong transportation connections that include improving opportunities for disadvantaged communities to access employment and education centers is a prime objective in Montgomery County's TIGER grant request. I very much appreciate your attention and your consideration of this matter. Please keep me posted as these grant awards are made.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
OFFICE INDICATED:

☒ 901 SOUTH BOND STREET, SUITE 310
BALTIMORE, MD 21231
(410) 962-4510
VOICE/TDD: (410) 962-4512

☐ 60 WEST STREET, SUITE 202
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-2448
(410) 263-1805
BALTIMORE: (410) 269-1650

☐ 6404 IVY LANE, SUITE 406
GREENBELT, MD 20770-1407
(301) 345-5517

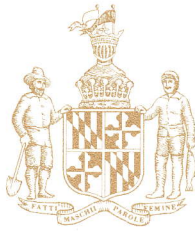
☐ 32 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ROOM 203
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740-4804
(301) 797-2826

☐ THE PLAZA GALLERY BUILDING
212 MAIN STREET, SUITE 200
SALISBURY, MD 21801-2403
(410) 546-7711

SENATOR NANCY J. KING
SENATE DELEGATION CHAIR

SENATOR ROGER MANNO
SENATE DELEGATION VICE CHAIR

301-858-3686 · 410-841-3686
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686



DELEGATE SHANE ROBINSON
HOUSE DELEGATION CHAIR

DELEGATE KIRILL REZNIK
HOUSE DELEGATION VICE CHAIR

301-858-3010 · 410-841-3010
800-492-7122 Ext. 3010

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION

April 28, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Montgomery County, Maryland, has submitted an application for federal funding through USDOT's TIGER competitive grant program. The project cost is estimated at \$65 million of which the County plans to commit 50 percent in matching funds. As the Montgomery County delegation chairs for Maryland's Senate and House of Delegates, we are writing to express our delegation's strong support for this proposal.

With just over one million residents, Montgomery County has the largest population of any Maryland County. The US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line and High Occupancy Vehicle managed lanes project proposed by the County will create needed connections between high-density neighborhoods adjacent to the nation's capital and education and employment centers in the County including the Food and Drug Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Discovery Communications headquarters. The planned BRT with an expanded interconnected regional bike share network will feature eleven BRT stations, improve transit reliability for low-income and minority residents, spur walkable mixed-use suburban redevelopment, and improve the quality of life for over 120,000 residents living on or near the highly congested suburban corridor.

Montgomery County's TIGER proposal will not only result in providing more transportation choices for both commuter and non-work travel on existing payment, but it will also link disadvantaged communities to job centers through an improved transportation network. We respectfully urge your most serious consideration of this application.

Sincerely,


Senator Nancy J. King
Chair, Montgomery County Senate Delegation


Delegate Shane Robinson
Chair, Montgomery County House Delegation



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

NANCY FLOREEN
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

March 21, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Council to express our support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Upon successful grant award, Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project. The USDOT's dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our citizens is something that we appreciate your leadership on. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. The project will improve safety and reduce travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians; and transit users and allow increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support in funding these important projects. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT and the Maryland Department of Transportation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation at 240-777-7170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Floreen".

Nancy Floreen
President, Montgomery County Council



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

March 22, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

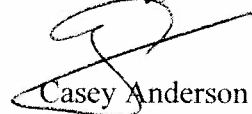
Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Planning Board to express support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The US 29 corridor is one of ten BRT corridors (along with the Corridor Cities Transitway) identified in our Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan that was adopted in December 2013. Upon successful grant award, it is my understanding that Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project.

The USDOT's leadership and dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our residents is appreciated. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. The project will improve safety and reduce travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and transit users and allow increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration as we ask for your support in funding this important project. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT and both the Maryland and Montgomery County Departments of Transportation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation at (240) 777-7170.

Sincerely,



Casey Anderson
Chair

CA:TA:aj

Attachment: USDOT TIGER FY 2016 Draft Grant Application Summary Sheet

USDOT TIGER FY 2016 DRAFT GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET



APPLICANT/SPONSOR: Montgomery County Maryland

US 29 BUS RAPID TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS

The US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project will enable the implementation of a new higher speed, high frequency, premium transit service improving transit travel times and frequencies and addressing current and future bus ridership demands in the corridor. Funding for the BRT project will support the purchase of twelve articulated buses; installation of BRT stations; roadway improvements for bus on shoulder and managed lanes; off-board fare collection; accessible pedestrian improvements; real time bus arrival information; transit signal priority improvements; bicycle parking; and bicycle sharing.

The project will improve transit mobility and accessibility while connecting riders to high density housing and employment centers, including major private and government job centers, and education centers in the County. Major employers in the corridor include the Food and Drug Administration Headquarters and Research Center in White Oak and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Silver Spring.

The project will improve mobility and transit travel times in the US 29 corridor while leveraging lessons learned from the region's USDOT Tiger One grant award that provided the pilot framework and funding for real time passenger information and associated bus technologies in the corridor.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The BRT will serve 13 stations along the 10.5 mile route between the Silver Spring Transit Center in downtown Silver Spring and the Burtonsville Park & Ride north of the Inter County Connector (MD 200). The service will connect to numerous existing local and regional bus routes, Metrorail, MTA commuter bus, and MARC commuter rail. The Silver Spring Transit Center, the route's southern terminus, is also a future stop for the planned Purple Line Light Rail, scheduled to be completed in 2022.
- The service is expected to operate 7 days per week running 10 minute peak service and 15 minute off-peak service. The BRT will operate within the existing pavement by using roadway shoulders, managed lanes, and some segments running in mixed traffic.
- Transit signal priority for the BRT will be installed at approximately 16 signals along the route.
- BRT stations will feature larger shelters, real-time bus arrival information, off-board fare collection, accessible pedestrian improvements, and bicycle parking.
- Bicycle share stations will be constructed at key stops along the route along with a feeder network of stations to provide last mile service
- Planning and design will be completed by June 2018, followed by an estimated 1-2 year construction period. Anticipated start of service is late 2019.



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

March 28, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express the support of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the national capital region, for Montgomery County's application under the FY 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program.

The TPB understands that the County's US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project will enable the County to improve current transit travel times and frequencies while also addressing current and future bus ridership demands through this new higher speed, high frequency, premium transit service in the corridor. The project is anticipated to reduce single occupant vehicular travel, improve safety and reduce travel times for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians; and will improve transit mobility and accessibility to high density housing and employment centers, including major private and government job centers, and education centers in the County.

The TPB supports these goals and appreciates your strong consideration of this application as it directly responds to regional transportation goals and priorities adopted by the Transportation Planning Board and identified in the Washington region's long-range transportation plan. I understand that upon successful grant award, Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project and the region's transportation improvement program (TIP) will be amended to include the grant funding.

Sincerely,

Timothy Lovain
Chair, National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

C: Mr. Al Roshdieh, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Director



April 18, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to support the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. I appreciate USDOT's dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our citizens. Montgomery County's application is another example of a high quality transit project and is supported with a commitment from the County to provide the required local funding and operating match. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. Additionally, the project will improve safety and reduce travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and transit users and will allow increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support in funding these important projects. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation at (240) 777-7170.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Wiedefeld
General Manager and
Chief Executive Officer

**Washington
Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority**

600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202/962-1234

www.metroopensdoors.com

*A District of Columbia,
Maryland and Virginia
Transit Partnership*



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 20, 2016

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The East County Citizens Advisory Board supports the application from the Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The East County Citizens Advisory Board is an all-volunteer board of residents that advises the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council on issues and needs for the East County area and advocates for regional priorities. The Board appreciates your leadership of USDOT's dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our citizens. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. This project, we sincerely believe, will improve travel times for multi-modal transportation such as for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, as well as transit users and allow increased opportunity for economic development in the eastern portion of Montgomery County and the State of Maryland, and it does this by way of laying the foundational infrastructure for transit improvement in the future between Montgomery County and its surrounding jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support in funding this important project. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT, Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of

Transportation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation at (240) 777-7170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Ramirez", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Anthony Ramirez, Chair
East County Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Montgomery County Executive, Ike Leggett
County Council President, Nancy Floreen
Al Roshdieh, MCDOT Director
Jewru Bandeh, Director, East County Regional Office



April 21, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the residents of Good Hope Estates, I am writing to express our support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the **US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project**.

Our community of over 600 homes would benefit greatly from this transit investment. Not only would this project provide a shorter and more attractive commute for residents that currently use transit, but it would also encourage more transit use and alleviate congestion along US 29.

The proposed BRT system is the only high-capacity transit option available to East Montgomery County, as there are no plans for light or heavy rail. The distance from our community to Metrorail or commuter rail hubs is unattractive for most of our residents, and existing bus service is limited and infrequent. This project is essential to the future livelihood and quality of life for our region, especially as Howard County continues to develop and generate more traffic.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support in funding these important projects. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT, Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of Transportation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County DOT at (240) 777-7170.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Smoot

President, Good Hope Estates Civic Association
Mobile: 240-308-1006 | Email: gheca@gheca.org
1200 Rainbow Drive, Silver Spring MD 20905

Greater Colesville Citizens Association
PO Box 4087
Colesville, MD 20914
March 25, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

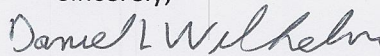
We are writing to express our support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Upon successful grant award, Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project. These funds will be used to help fund the implementation of BRT on US29, which would be the first BRT corridor envisioned for Montgomery County. The vision calls for many of the corridors to eventually be extended to neighboring jurisdictions.

The Greater Colesville Citizens Association (GCCA) represents 3500 single family households centered at the intersection of New Hampshire Ave and Randolph Rd. We have been strong supporters of BRT for many years as a way of moving people, supporting economic development and starting to address global warming. As part of moving people, it will reduce road congestion, which is a major problem for our region.

There are four major components to achieving the above goals within Eastern Montgomery County, with BRT on US29 being one component. The other three are the relocation of FDA to White Oak which has been underway for several decades, the move of Adventist Hospital to White Oak (ground was broken on March 7, 2016), and partnership between Percontee and Montgomery County to build Viva White Oak, a life science center in a new town setting. Philanthropist John Gudelsky (Percontee) and County Executive Ike Leggett on March 24, 2016 reached a final agreement in principle concerning remaining issues related to the General Development Agreement.

These four efforts together will not only benefit the citizens in Eastern Montgomery County via jobs and mobility, but also benefit the entire county, state and nation by improving health products approved by FDA. A large number of companies from around the world that produce products that FDA regulates want to have a close presence to improve their collaboration. FDA and Adventist Hospital collaboration is already resulting in improved medical devices.

Sincerely,



Daniel L. Wilhelm
GCCA President

10733 Kinloch Road

LABQUEST Partnership

Silver Spring, MD 20903

301-980-3050

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: USDOT TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing on behalf of the LABQUEST Partnership, a community organization in Montgomery County, MD. Formed more than 20 years ago, LABQUEST played a key support role in the consolidation of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters in the county. We are now supporting two area economic development projects that will leverage their close proximity to the FDA.

LABQUEST strongly supports the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to the TIGER VIII grant program for its Route 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. This project will significantly improve mobility and transit times in the vital Route 29 corridor while connecting riders to major private and government employment centers. Major federal employment hubs include FDA, with 8,500 jobs and thousands of visitors annually, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In addition, the project will represent an extremely important factor for increased economic development in the county, including a new Washington Adventist Hospital being constructed near FDA headquarters with 1,300 projected jobs and a planned mixed-use development with a biomedical research component adjacent to the FDA.

The time is right for this project; the TIGER grant will give it a huge push forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Betsy Bretz
Chair

Executive Directors Rob Richardson, Marc Bloom, Dan Marren

cc: Peter Fosselman
Montgomery County

SAUL CENTERS, INC.

7501 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1500E, Bethesda, Maryland 20814
(301) 986-6200

April 20, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

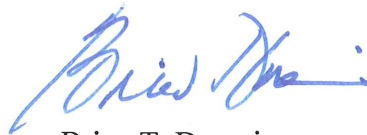
Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Saul Centers, Inc. is invested in commercial properties throughout Montgomery County and elsewhere in the Metropolitan DC area. We are writing to express our support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Upon successful grant award, Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project. The USDOT's dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our citizens is something that we appreciate your leadership on. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. The project will improve travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians; and transit users and allow increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support in funding these important projects. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT, Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of Transportation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation at (240) 777-7170.

Sincerely,



Brian T. Downie
Senior Vice President, Development

Cc: Al Roshdieh, Director, MCDOT

April 4, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

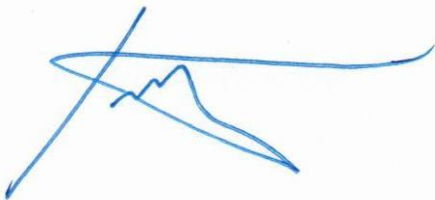
RE: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James A. Soltesz', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

James A. Soltesz, P.E.
President & CEO



Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 14, 2016

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express our support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Upon successful grant award, Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project. The USDOT's dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our citizens is something that we appreciate your leadership on. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. The project will improve travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians; and transit users and allow increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration and we ask for your support in funding these important projects. While we understand that transportation funds are limited, we look forward to continuing a productive partnership with USDOT, Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of Transportation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Al Roshdieh, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation at (240) 777-7170.

Sincerely,

By:  _____

Shane Pollin
Director of Development
The Duffie Companies

Established 1953

April 18, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: USDOT Tiger VIII – FY16 Discretionary Program Applications

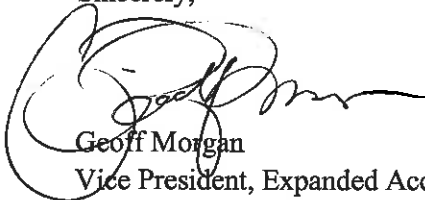
Dear Secretary Foxx:

Washington Adventist Hospital is excited that it will continue its 109 year legacy of caring for the community on its new and relocated campus in the White Oak section of Montgomery County just off US 29 and Cherry Hill Road. Construction for the relocation is underway with occupancy expected in 2019. Further, the hospital is excited to be a key asset in the economic redevelopment of the east county and is currently solidifying its relationship with the other existing and future developments in the region.

I am writing to express our support for the application from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to USDOT's Tiger VIII Discretionary Funding Program for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Upon successful grant award, Montgomery County will provide the required local funding and operating match for this project. The USDOT's dedication to funding high quality projects that have clear and visible benefits for our citizens is something that we appreciate your leadership on. The project proposal includes transformative benefits for both local residents and businesses by providing reliable transit and non-motorized local and regional transportation connections. The project will improve travel times for motorists, cyclists, pedestrians; and transit users and allow increased opportunity for economic development in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

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Sincerely,



Geoff Morgan
Vice President, Expanded Access
Washington Adventist Hospital

cc: Peter Fosselman

March 29, 2017

President Roger Berliner
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville MD, 20850

Re: A Successful Rt. 29 Bus Rapid Transit System

Council President Berliner:

I am writing today on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth to express our strong support for the Rt. 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. While we concur with the council (T&E Committee letter dated March 17th to MCDOT Director Roshdieh) that additional public input is important, we are also worried that undue delay will put at risk federal funding and the entire project. The modified project merits support because it provides significant travel time and ridership benefits, even without the dedicated lanes south of Tech Road. With funding in hand, the county finally, 3.5 years after unanimously approving the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan, has the opportunity to advance the first segment of its planned 81-mile system.

This investment is vital to not only the success of the Rt. 29 corridor but to the success of Montgomery County as a whole. We ask the County Council to strongly support this project, which will significantly improve the quality of life for East County residents.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has provided travel time estimates, ridership figures, estimated infrastructure costs, a statement of need, and comparisons with other BRT systems for the County Executive's 2020 plan. The 2020 plan would reduce peak transit travel times by up to 35%, increase daily transit boarding's by 3,950 trips at start of operations, and result in \$269 to \$520 million in net fiscal benefits to the county -- money that we need to support a first class school system¹.

Projected daily ridership would rank high when compared to not only other BRT systems in the United States, but to light rail systems which typically carry more riders than BRT. Moreover, the county received a federal TIGER grant to build BRT on this corridor, which is at risk if we don't proceed.

The economic need for transit on Rt. 29 is great:

- 50% of corridor households have either no access to a car or own only one vehicle²
- Median income is significantly lower than the regional median income.

¹ Figures are from MCDOT February 17th 2017 Planning Board Briefing

² [MCDOT Rt. 29 BRT TIGER Grant Application](#)

- The poverty rate along the Rt. 29 corridor as a whole is 1.26 times the regional average, with one census tract averaging 2.4 times the regional average³.
- In certain parts of Burtonsville residents are spending 71% of their income on rent and housing⁴, leaving little left over for groceries, healthcare or savings.
- Access to transportation is the single greatest indicator of a person's odds of escaping poverty. As average commute times go up in a given jurisdiction social mobility goes down⁵.
- Peak bus trips on this corridor currently take 60% longer than auto trips⁶, hampering the ability of transit-dependent residents to access jobs and resources.

Simply put, providing BRT in the Rt. 29 corridor will present an affordable and reliable transportation option for working families to succeed.

The environmental case for progressive Montgomery County to invest in BRT is also strong. For the first time since 1971, transportation has overtaken power plants as the number one contributor to new greenhouse gas emissions⁷. An environmentally-sustainable county must be willing to make transit investments that increase residents' access to non-auto transportation options. To seriously tackle climate change, Montgomery County must build the BRT system and continue investments in transit-oriented communities.

We strongly urge the Montgomery County Council to support this project and move it forward expeditiously to improve access to opportunity, economic success, and environmental sustainability..

Sincerely,



Stewart Schwartz
Executive Director
Coalition for Smarter Growth

³ Census data from [MWCOG "Equity Emphasis Areas"](#)

⁴ [MCDOT Rt. 29 BRT TIGER Grant Application](#)

⁵ ["Transportation Emerges as Crucial to Escaping Poverty"](#), New York Times, May 7th 2015

⁶ Figures are from MCDOT February 17th 2017 Planning Board Briefing

⁷ ["Power plants are no long America's biggest climate problem. Transportation is."](#), Vox, June 13th 2016