



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 13, 2017

Mr. Al Roshdieh
Director
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Director Roshdieh,

The Council recently learned that the County Executive has agreed to reserve use of the Woodmont Corner Garage during regular business hours for Marriott International employees and visitors once the company opens its new corporate headquarters in downtown Bethesda. This agreement, together with the potential impact on parking of the Bethesda Downtown Plan now before the Council, make it clear that now is the time for your Department to perform a thorough analysis of future parking supply in the area.

We must know the big picture before proceeding with changes that could result in fewer County parking spaces available to the public and more demand for the parking spaces that are available. While our Transportation Management District is employing multiple strategies to increase the number of people who use transportation modes other than their vehicles to get to downtown Bethesda, many continue to rely on County parking facilities, making these facilities critical to the overall livability of our County's main economic engine.

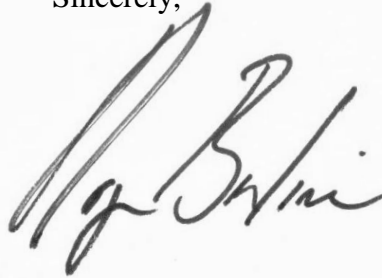
An analysis of the parking situation should, at a minimum, seek to answer the following questions:

- 1) How many parking spaces in downtown Bethesda does our County consider adequate based on current demand?
- 2) Has the Department done an estimate of future parking demand? If so, did that estimate take into account the future of the Woodmont Corner Garage, planned development and further potential development under the soon-to-be finalized Bethesda Downtown Plan?
- 3) Can the impact of losing the roughly 1,000 spaces in the centrally-located Woodmont Corner Garage be effectively mitigated by relying on people to use alternative parking facilities blocks away? If so, what communication efforts will be put into place to encourage the use of alternatives to the Woodmont Corner Garage?

- 4) Has the County fully explored the potential for public-private partnerships to maximize the potential of our existing parking facilities and privately-owned facilities, such as the partnership with private developers that brought the new Garage 31 to Bethesda Avenue and Woodmont Avenue?

Please provide my office with this information at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Berliner", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Roger Berliner
Council President
Chair, Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy
And Environment Committee