



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

August 30, 2010

Mr. Patrick J. O'Brien
Director
Office of Economic Adjustment
400 Army Navy Drive, Suite 200
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

In the past year Congress appropriated \$300 million for transportation projects around military hospitals to mitigate gridlock that will be the result of significant BRAC-mandated growth by September 2011. Unfortunately, these funds were not able to be obligated due to the lack of proper authorization. Measures are currently being considered by the House Appropriations Committee to ensure the obligation of appropriated funds by passing them through the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA).

At the risk of putting the cart before the horse, members of the Montgomery County BRAC Implementation Committee have asked me to discern from OEA what processes and timelines would be used if (and, hopefully, when) Congress appropriates funds to assist state and county transportation authorities to mitigate traffic congestion around BRAC-impacted military hospitals.

The Montgomery County BRAC Implementation Committee has been anxiously awaiting the outcome of Congressional attempts to provide funds to help Montgomery County and the State of Maryland address the transportation mitigations that are urgently needed as a result of the BRAC-mandated realignment of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) in Bethesda.

With the completion of the BRAC action at WRNMMC set to take place in about one year, the community is very concerned that lack of funding has delayed implementation of these vital projects. Needless to say, with personnel stationed at WRNMMC increasing by nearly one-third and annual visits to the campus increasing by 100 percent, the sooner these projects can be completed, the better.

QUESTIONS:

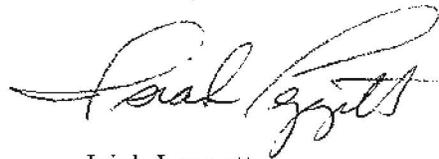
The BRAC Implementation Committee wants to know what OEA would have to do, and how long it would take, to implement a plan to disburse funds to local transportation authorities if Congress succeeds in appropriating the \$300 million for this purpose in the coming months.

Any insights you can offer would be greatly appreciated by an anxious public. Specifically:

- How long would it take for OEA to develop an application process?
- Will communities and other stakeholders have an opportunity to review and comment on the application process before it is finalized?
- What length of time would communities have to submit applications?
- How long would it take for awards to be determined and disbursed?

Thank you for your attention in this most important matter. We appreciate the efforts OEA has already made to help Montgomery County address BRAC-related growth, including the provision of grant funds for a BRAC Coordinator and the unprecedented awarding of a Facilities Study grant for Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths.

Sincerely,



Isiah Leggett
County Executive