



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Pete K. Rahn
Secretary

December 8, 2015

Mr. Al Roshdieh
Acting Director
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor
Rockville MD 20850

Dear Mr. Roshdieh:

On August 10, 2015, I responded to your letter regarding the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) request that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) initiate a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study on MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue) between US 29 and the District of Columbia. At that time, MDOT was reviewing its program and resources to better address the transportation challenges and opportunities presented to both Montgomery County and Maryland as a whole.

During the review of resources, MDOT considered the status of the various BRT projects underway in Montgomery County. We are pleased to see that MDOT and MCDOT recently agreed to the US 29 and MD 355 work plans. This will lead to alternatives to be recommended for detailed study (ARDS) by the end of 2016 and the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for each corridor in early 2019, if funding is secured to take the studies beyond analysis of the conceptual alternatives. In addition, MD 586 (Viers Mills Road) work continues with an anticipated LPA selection in Summer 2016. Additional financial resources are required to move the projects for all three corridors through design, construction, and implementation. Lastly, MCDOT and MDOT are working together to identify cost reductions and a construction funding plan for the Corridor City Transitway (CCT), another BRT project in Montgomery County.

Given the considerable financial and staff commitments MDOT already made to the county's BRT corridor studies, MDOT believes it would be most prudent at this time to focus on the work already undertaken and bring these studies to a logical point of completion before undertaking new studies.

To aid the county to developing future budgets, MDOT staff developed an initial cost estimate of \$5 to 6 million to complete a MD 650 study that will result in selecting an LPA for the US 29 to the District of Columbia corridor. If MCDOT should decide to lead and fund the MD 650 corridor study as a county project, MDOT would be happy to participate as a stakeholder and project advisor.

My telephone number is 410-865-1000
Toll Free Number 1-888-713-1414 TTY Users Call Via MD Relay
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076

Mr. Al Roshdieh
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Thank you again for your letter. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Kevin Quinn, Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Office of Planning and Programming Director, at 410-767-8361, toll free at 1-888-713-1414, or via email at KQuinn@mta.maryland.gov. Mr. Quinn will be happy to assist you. Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete K. Rahn". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pete K. Rahn
Secretary

cc: Mr. Kevin Quinn, Director, Office of Planning and Programming, MTA