

September 20, 2021

Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

FY23 Capital Budget Spending Affordability Guidelines and FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program

Testimony for September 21, 2021

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Thank you, President Hucker and Councilmembers. I am speaking on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading organization advocating for walkable, inclusive, transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable, equitable way for the DC region to grow and provide opportunities for everyone. We urge you to support a capital budget and capital improvements program (CIP) that prioritizes investments in transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements projects, as well as affordable housing.

Now, more than ever, we need to think boldly about our infrastructure. Our infrastructure impacts our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and is at the root of economic development and community investment. Specifically, transportation infrastructure has the ability to provide residents with access to jobs, education, retail, and other amenities, making it a key component of quality of life and wellbeing.

Thus, in the FY23-28 CIP, we urge you to create the capacity to properly prioritize sustainable transportation. This includes not only the continued design and preliminary engineering of future Bus Rapid Transit routes, but also construction funding for certain high priority and high impact routes. The programming of construction dollars has the ability to attract federal matching investments. We also urge you to fund projects that improve access to the county's Metro stations – one of our most valuable resources – and projects that make it easier to walk and bicycle throughout Montgomery County.

Montgomery County has such an exciting future planned, but those plans for more welcoming, complete communities hinge on the county having a robust, safe, multimodal transit network. Achieving those goals requires dedicated public investment. Thank you for your time.