



EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich,

At the May 1, 2024 meeting, the East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB) voted to support the requesting of funds for a study of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Randolph Road and identification of a holistic integration with current and future developments on the east side of Old Columbia Pike.

ECCAB has previously supported the Randolph Road study west of US29. The Randolph Road Corridor needs to be extended east of US29 as envisioned in the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan to provide service to Viva White Oak, Montgomery College Education Center and planned college campus, White Oak Medical Center (WOMC) and the Federal Research Center/FDA in White Oak. ECCAB has also supported the Viva White Oak development and Montgomery College, both of which require good transit service. The College 2021 Feasibility study indicated that the lack of public transit is a challenge to operating the campus in East County. WOMC and FRC/FDA need more parking but, rather than add parking, we support adding good transit service.

ECCAB also urges that the study include a modification to the US29 Orange route to serve Old Columbia Pike from Briggs Chaney Road to Tech Rd and provide service to the area identified above. This would be in keeping with the recently approved Fairland/Briggs Chaney Master Plan.

Lastly, we urge the study to include the integration of BRT with Ride On and Metrobus to provide easy transfers. Once implemented, duplicate Ride On and Metrobus service would need to be eliminated to increase ridership and lower operating costs.

This recommendation will result in excellent transit service within and between multiple activity centers between Briggs Chaney Road and New Hampshire Avenue, which is the area in east county with some of the highest residential, retail and commercial density as well as with the economic and employment centers in the western part of Montgomery County. Such transit services are envisioned in Thrive Montgomery 2050 and Climate Action Plans.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our recommendations and continuous support to Eastern Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Myo Khin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Peter Myo Khin
Chair, East County Citizens Advisory Board

Cc: Andrew Friedson, County Council President
D5 County Council Member Kristin Mink
Jewru Bandeh, Director, ECRSC
Jenny Bryant, OMB Director
Chris Conklin, MCDOT Director