



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
NANCY FLOREEN

Chairwoman Hixon, Vice-Chair Doory, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before you on two significant proposals – HB 393 and HB 434. For the record, I am Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Floreen, and Chair of the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee. But my colleague Councilmember Knapp and I come today speaking as individuals.

To put it bluntly – we have come to say - **Just do it**. Our region is so desperate for increased and improved transit, we will support almost any reasonable, creative initiative that results in funding for transit.

I spent Valentine's Day here in Annapolis testifying before the Budget and Taxation Committee in support of SB 167 which would create a Mass Transit Account.

Now both of these bills also propose to create that fund - so my first request to you is to do what you can to make sure that fund becomes a reality. My strong support for all these bills hinges on the fact that the funding source is clear and deliverable, and its uses are defined and restricted. These elements are critical to the long term success of protecting our commitment to transit.

In addition, and almost more important, is that each of the bills prohibits revenues credited to the Mass Transit Account to supplant other funding for public transportation. In other words, the Account would **guarantee** that new and critically-needed funding for transit would be added to the pot and **would not permit** the **shifting** of dollars for other competing needs.

Now we have HB 393 and HB 434 which takes the initiative even further by offering a guaranteed stream of funds into the Mass Transit Account – just the fuel we need to get this vehicle rolling. My hat is off to you.

On behalf of transit riders throughout Maryland as well as the Maryland drivers who benefit when cars are taken off the roads, I urge you to ensure that the Mass Transit Account is created. And, for the icing on the cake, to pass whatever it takes to provide a dedicated revenue stream into that Account.

Transit is our future, and now is the time to get on board.

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