



September 13, 2022

Montgomery County Department of Transportation  
Division of Transportation Engineering  
Attn: Rebecca Park, Project Manager  
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

RE: Boyds Transit Improvements Public Hearing comments

Dear Ms Park,

The Boyds Transit Improvements project encompasses the historic Hoyle's Mill and is located within the designated Montgomery County Heritage Area. The site at the Boyds MARC Station is located in the heart of the commercial district of historic Boyds, adjacent to numerous recreational opportunities at Little Seneca Lake, along the heavily-used Hoyles Mill Trail, and at a gateway location to the Agricultural Reserve. It is in the Montgomery County Boyds Historic District and the National Register-eligible Boyds-White Grounds Historic District.

The reuse of this resource is a unique and highly valuable opportunity for Montgomery County, to the Heritage Tourism efforts of our office and to Visit Montgomery. Please see the Fact Sheet attached for information about how valuable resources like these are to our County. Mills are commonly reused due to their sense of place and history. A local example is the historic Bowman Mill beside the tracks in Olde Towne Gaithersburg with vibrant retail spaces, offices and a restaurant.

The site plan proposed by your office will exclude mill users from the only bathroom facilities that you will construct on the site. This results in assuring that the mill can never be reused. We do not support this site plan.

In working on the MARC Rail Communities Sector Plan, we understand that the reused mill has been envisioned as a central part of the revitalized community and the historic district. The County Council fully supports that vision, as does this office. This site plan must reflect that vision.

We ask that the proposed site plan be amended so as to assure the availability of a restroom for mill users, and that the mill can be adaptively reused. We would like to join forces with your office and our local historical societies to collaborate on this project and to assure the future reuse of this irreplaceable resource. We understand that, as written, this is outside of the scope of this project. We support amending the scope of this project to assure that the outcome matches the County Council and community's vision of Boyds.

We would like to see an updated site plan, and to participate or host a meeting with interested parties to continue exploring the reuse of this mill.

We look forward to working with you. Thank you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Y. Ross", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Executive Director  
Heritage Montgomery

