



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Marc Elrich
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich,

Transportation infrastructure improvements are a top priority for the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB). We have long supported a host of strategies to increase mobility in our region, meet our growing needs, and make good on the promised improvements for our bustling region – including increased road capacity and transit.

As you are aware, the transformation and growth in communities like Clarksburg and Germantown – as well as the increased congestion on state and local roads – have outpaced the lack of transportation infrastructure improvements in the Upcounty region. One of the key infrastructure priorities that our communities have been anticipating and advocating for is the completion of Observation Drive. Observation Drive is a key arterial roadway that will relieve congestion and better connect communities between Clarksburg and Germantown. Given the continued growth, with limited transit options coming online in the near future, should be a clear indicator of this project's importance to our area.

UCAB previously filed a letter to you and the Council in April of 2021, discussing the need for the Observation Drive project that was initially included in the FY15-20 Capital Improvements Program with design - split in two phases - starting in FY19. Since then, it has already been delayed three years with final design starting in FY22. You and the Council agreed with UCAB and kept this project a priority and maintain Final design in FY22. Land acquisition for Phase 1 to occur in FY25 and construction will be completed in FY28. Land acquisition and construction for Phase 2 will occur beyond FY28.

We urge you and the Council to keep this project on schedule and deliver on a priority that the Upcounty has anticipated for many years. The Board believes the project would reduce traffic congestion, improve mobility, but most importantly, enhance safety and quality of life to Upcounty residents. Therefore, we support the Observation Drive project and would like to see it completed without any further delay.

We hope that you support this recommendation. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty.



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Sincerely,



Wayne A. Jacas, PMP
Chair

cc: Members of the Montgomery County Council