



Thomas E. Dernoga

Chair
District 1

"Effective. Responsive. Committed."

October 3, 2023

Mr. Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Secretary Wiedefeld,

As the Moore Administration considers transportation projects inherited from the Hogan Administration, the Prince George's County Council seeks to be fully engaged in any decisions affecting our residents. We seek a sustainable future focused on a multi-modal transportation network that contributes toward transit-rich, walkable communities.

The Hogan Administration's focus on I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes and the I-495 Southside Express Project did not provide the appropriate balance needed for a 21st Century regional transportation system.

We seek the Maryland Department of Transportation's leadership to ensure that the promise of transit on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge becomes a reality. The bridge was built with the expectation and the capacity to accommodate rail rather than adding vehicle lanes. It is critical that the economic center of National Harbor be connected regionally by rail.

The Southside Express Project would push a Virginia traffic bottleneck into Prince George's County, a completely unacceptable proposition that should be dead on arrival in the Moore Administration.

Regarding I-495/I-270 Managed Lanes, we seek the extension of the Purple Line as a circumferential light rail system as a preferred alternative. As Purple Line construction is well underway, now is the time to plan for its continuation which has long been envisioned, including in our Master Plan of Transportation. We simply cannot expect that more road widening will build us out of traffic congestion.

The surest way to mitigate traffic is through smart growth transportation and land use policies. To that end, the Prince George's County Council is focused on implementing the land use policies in Plan 2035 that encourage redevelopment near transit and in our more urban areas while discouraging greater car-dependent sprawl development. We seek the Moore Administration and Maryland Department of Transportation's partnership in the pursuit of stronger walkable, transit-rich transportation for our future. We support local hiring, and like President Biden, we are also strong proponents of ensuring that those doing the work on major projects are paid a decent wage and enjoy health and retirement benefits.

Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to working with you on these critical needs.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

cc: Governor Wes Moore
Senate Delegation Chair Malcolm Augustine
House Delegation Chair Nick Charles