



City of Rockville
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May 14, 2018

Maryland Department of Transportation
Lisa B. Choplin, DBIA
707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop P-601
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Ms. Choplin,

On behalf of the City of Rockville, I am taking this opportunity to provide comments on the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study. We urge the State to not include any options in its feasibility study that would widen the physical footprint of I-270, or that would result in eminent domain of private property adjacent to the highway.

As the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) gathers community input on congestion relief options for I-270 and I-495, we urge MDOT to pursue mass transit, which is the only viable solution to lasting traffic congestion. Mass transit is environmentally sustainable, and aligns with Rockville's multi-modal approach to transportation.

The Mayor and Council are very concerned about residences and businesses with private property located along I-270 in the City of Rockville. We want to ensure that the proposed project does not include multi-parcel takings to add lanes or widen I-270 north or south. These options will increase noise and pollution, invite more traffic, and create new levels of congestion.

Rockville was recently named by Money Magazine as the best place to live in Maryland. Our thriving community has 67,000 residents and 77,500 jobs. The Mayor and Council do not want any of our residents or businesses to be displaced. All land that abuts I-270 in Rockville is developed. There are several Rockville neighborhoods that abut I-270: West End, Woodley Gardens, Regents Square, Rose Hill Falls, Rockshire and Fallsmead. Community institutions, including Rockville Christian Church, First Baptist Church, Rockville Nursing Home, Inc. as well as many businesses are adjacent to I-270.

We are also concerned about the potential loss of City property. The Rockville Senior Center borders I-270. This facility provides critical services and programs to our senior population.

The Mayor and Council plan to stay actively engaged in the public input process to ensure that our residents and businesses are protected from negative impacts. When MDOT releases alternatives to the public, the City of Rockville will evaluate them and provide additional commentary. We urge you to make every effort to take our comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Bridget Donnell Newton
Mayor of Rockville

cc: Rockville City Council

MAYOR
Bridget Donnell Newton

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