

Good evening. My name is Becky Batt and I live in Rockville.

The purpose of this public hearing is to provide an opportunity for people to give their recs for the toll rate if 270 is widened. The plan for widening 270 with P3 toll lanes has not been approved. My recommendation for tolls is zero because 270 should not be widened and toll lanes should not be built. Widening 270 would be a major mistake for Maryland environmentally and financially.

Widening 270 would destroy parks, green spaces, trees, wetlands and neighborhoods, including mine. Maryland and the federal government made commitments to reduce greenhouse gases. Paving over more land would increase greenhouse gases.

The scheme to widen 270 rather than focus on public transit would escalate the climate crisis. Climate change is causing extreme weather catastrophes throughout the world. Temps in the pacific NW and parts of CA are higher than they have ever been in history. People are dying because of climate change right now.

P3s are risky and are not free. They often end up costing the public a great deal of money. P3s around the country have gone bankrupt or have pulled out of projects. We know what happened with the Purple Line. The state already agreed to

pay extremely high subsidies to a private company which would have control over the lanes for half a century.

Private toll companies have no incentive to promote public transit. They only make money if there is enough congestion on the roads to push people onto toll lanes. In the DEIS it actually shows that traffic on the regular lanes of 270 during the evening commute would be slower if toll lanes are built.

My recommendation for tolls on 270 is zero because 270 should not be widened and toll lanes should not be built.

Thank you.