

MDTA Rate Talking points 07/12/2021

My name is Elliott Levine and I live in Rockville, MD.

I speak in opposition to approving the plan a tolling road with a 50- year contract to pay for this highway expansion.

REASONS for Opposition:

- The toll road's necessity has never been sufficiently proven to be needed. Even prior to Covid, the VMT calculations were considered suspect. (No consideration of induced demand). Post Covid, this is particularly important since most of corporate America is going hybrid work model with regard to office and telework thereby obviating the need for an expansion!
- The Final EIS has yet to be published. The environmental mitigation plans have never been fully costed. The cost of moving WSSC water and sewer lines have never been ascribed to the costs of this project.
- A Value for Money (VFM) analysis was promised in 2019 but never performed. This analysis is supposed to compare the project costs of public VS private financing. This essential document has never been delivered and this is unacceptable
- All public surveys conducted have shown that even those residents that support the expansion do not want to pay a toll to use it.

In conclusion: This is a very risky project for Maryland taxpayers and setting tolls without a tally of the physical and environmental costs is flawed and shows poor stewardship and lack of restraint. A P3 is not free money and taxpayers should not be on the hook for the likely shortfall. This project should be abandoned, and at the very least deferred until more convincing information is published and reviewed.