



Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB390 – I-270 Commuter Bus Route Study
House Environment and Transportation Committee – February 13, 2020
SUPPORT

Good afternoon Delegate Barve and members of the Committee. My name is Councilmember Monique Ashton. I am honored to be here with you today on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the City of Rockville to testify in support of HB390 - Transportation – I-270 Commuter Bus Route Study.

Rockville will be THE most impacted municipality under the plans to widen I-270. The project will abut 9 neighborhoods and traverse the heart of our great city. Two Rockville bridges over I-270, that have no current access to I-270, are proposed to provide ramps to the toll lanes. This will increase traffic in Rockville, disrupt existing commuting patterns, and significantly increase the noise and environmental pollution already impacting our neighborhoods. Our bridges will likely also require more maintenance as a result of the increased traffic. For all these reasons, we believe that it is imperative to consider mass transit alternatives.

Currently, it would take a commuter 1 to 3 hours to travel between Rockville and Tysons Corner by rail or bus due to the circuitous route. We respectfully request that you support the I-270 Commuter Bus Route Study that would require the Department of Transportation to analyze and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing commuter bus routes to serve population centers along the I-270 Corridor between Montgomery and Frederick Counties and Northern Virginia. We recommend that the study also consider a review of times of availability for these commuter bus schedules, so that they can provide viable options for those who need consistent and reliable access. We also support requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to consult with local governments, such as Rockville, and other stakeholders, as part of the study and the development of recommendations.

This bill helps to fill the gaps in existing plans for traffic congestion relief in Maryland, supports economic development, creates the opportunity for more direct mass transit, and gets people out of cars and traffic, which is also good for the environment. We look forward to collaborating with you, and we strongly encourage you to support HB390 and to move the bill to the full house.

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