



Thursday, February 13, 2020

Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Environment and Transportation Committee, Room 251
House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 390 (Delegate Palakovich Carr): Transportation – I-270 – Commuter Bus Route Study

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing to convey our support for HB 390, which would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing a point-to-point commuter bus route that serves the population centers along the I-270 corridor in Frederick and Montgomery counties and provides service to and from the job centers in northern Virginia.

Located in the geographic center of Montgomery County, Maryland, Gaithersburg residents enjoy the best of both worlds - the familiarity and comfort of a small town community within the exciting metropolitan area of the nation's capital. While the residents of Gaithersburg are currently served by commuter bus lines, the MARC Brunswick Line, and METRO locations in neighboring Rockville, many locations along the corridor have a limited number of stops or are inconveniently located. Additionally, I-270 often provides a more direct route to a resident's place of employment. Point-to-point commuter bus lines offer residents an additional option to avoid the significant and daily travel challenges on I-270.

It is our hope that the study's findings would be incorporated into alternatives for the I-270 Managed Lane Study and the I-270 Pre-NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Study, which are both currently underway.

Lastly, we thank Delegate Pavlovich Carr for including the provision that would require MDOT's Managed Lanes Transit Work Group to consult with the City of Gaithersburg before issuing a final report. As one of the largest population centers along the I-270 corridor the City's input is critical to planning a bus route that is safe, efficient and fiscally responsible.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg urges a favorable report for HB 390.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. You may also contact the Legislative Affairs Manager for the City of Gaithersburg, Jessica Kwasny. She can be reached at jess.kwasny@gaitthersburgmd.gov or 301.805.1090.

Sincerely,
Jud Ashman, Mayor

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