



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 390

DATE: February 13, 2020

SPONSOR: Delegate Palakovich Carr, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Transportation – I-270 Commuter Bus Route Study

House Bill 390 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of establishing a point-to-point commuter bus route that services population centers along the I-270 corridor and provides service to and from Virginia job centers.

Montgomery County supports this proposal. However, the County believes the legislation could be strengthened if it would also include a requirement that the study address the issue of how buses connect to express toll lanes or high-occupancy toll lanes on I-270. Without planned access and departure points that would allow for direct connections, buses may have to cross over multiple lanes to access the toll lanes. This would compromise the efficiency of a point-to-point commuter bus service so thought should be given to how this may be avoided.

Also, of note, last Friday the Maryland Department of Transportation released its Request for Quotes for the I-495 and I-270 Public Private Partnership (P3) program. The Committee may want to consider accelerating the report deadline in the bill to ensure synchronization with this major P3 initiative.

Again, Montgomery County supports HB 390 and urges the Committee to advance this legislation.