



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

TOM HUCKER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

January 13, 2018

Chairman Charles Allen
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4239

Dear Chairman Allen,

I urge you to reconsider the list of projects for inclusion in Visualize 2045 and to include bus rapid transit (BRT) on New Hampshire Avenue between the Colesville Park and Ride Lot (north of Randolph Road) south to Eastern Avenue (at the border with the District of Columbia). Ideally, with the support of the District's Mayor and Council, this route would continue south to the Fort Totten Metro station, connecting eastern Montgomery and northern Prince George's commuters with the Purple Line at the Takoma/Langley Station, and to the Red Line and Green Line at Fort Totten.

For the following reasons, New Hampshire Avenue BRT should be added to the Visualize 2045 plan:

- We know there is already very high demand for bus service in this corridor. The implementation of Metro K9 limited stop bus service (between FDA and Fort Totten) in 2013 resulted in a 25% increase in ridership, followed by a 61% increase in 2014. As of June, 2017 K9 ridership has leveled off but is still steadily strong; there was a 5% increase in 2017 with over 320,000 riders on this route in the Metro FY17 fiscal year.¹
- There is very high existing residential density on New Hampshire Avenue that could support BRT. And significant new development is underway in Hillandale, all of which will rely heavily on transit.

¹ Metrobus Monthly Ridership - June 2017:
https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/upload/201706-JCC-June-2017-Preliminary-Ridership-Rpt_-07092017.pdf

- It will connect Fort Totten and the Takoma-Langley Transit Center directly with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), campus, already the largest employer on the eastern side of Montgomery County, and one that is rapidly growing. According to the FDA Master Plan update, nearly 9,000 additional employees will be added at the FDA's White Oak campus on New Hampshire Avenue.
- The Montgomery County Council has identified BRT on New Hampshire Avenue as a priority transit project. In 2013, the Council approved a long term transit priorities plan, the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan, which listed BRT on New Hampshire Avenue as a priority BRT project for study and eventual construction. Since then, we've invested further in BRT on New Hampshire Avenue; by allocating \$2 million in 2015 for a New Hampshire Avenue BRT study.
- The Takoma-Langley Crossroads is the highest trafficked transit hub outside of the reach of a Metro station and must continue to be a focus of mass transit enhancements.
- The cross-jurisdictional nature of the project would also make it eligible for funding from other local Maryland governments, the state of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and the federal government.

Thank you for including other important Montgomery County BRT corridors, like Randolph Road, Viers Mill Road, 355 and the Bethesda Transitway, in Visualize 2045. However, New Hampshire Avenue BRT should not be left behind. It has long been a stated priority for BRT expansion in Montgomery County BRT and should be reflected as such in Visualize 2045.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hucker", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Hucker