



HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL

1500 Forest Glen Road
Silver Spring, MD
20910-1484
(301) 754-7000
www.holycrosshealth.org

August 4, 2011

Mr. Edgar A. Gonzalez
Deputy Director for Transportation Policy
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

This letter confirms Holy Cross Hospital's support for Montgomery County's efforts to apply for a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) grant to build a pedestrian-bicycle underpass from the Forest Glen Metro station to the east side of Georgia Avenue and ancillary bicycle sharing stations. Through a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant, USDOT is seeking applications to improve transit and pedestrian access at selected rail station areas.

Holy Cross Hospital, one of the largest employers in Montgomery County and the second largest hospital in the state of Maryland, is located approximately one mile from the Forest Glen Metro station. For more than 30 years, the hospital has been challenged to offer quality programs and services as the communities we serve urbanize and grow at a rapid pace, and, importantly, age in place. Not only is space for clinical programs a challenge for us but so is having sufficient available parking on campus. To help mitigate these and other challenges over the last 30 years, Holy Cross Hospital has moved several non-clinical areas off campus and has provided off-site parking for hospital staff. In more recent years, Holy Cross Hospital has made a concerted effort to encourage transportation alternatives by implementing several incentives, including but not limited to: subsidizing Metro fares for staff; operating a shuttle bus between Forest Glen Metro and the hospital campus for staff; securing more off-site parking lots for staff cars; and establishing a transportation kiosk in the hospital lobby for patients, visitors, and staff seeking alternative transportation means to the hospital, including Metro information and Montgomery County's bus schedules.

Recently, Holy Cross Hospital was approved to build a new patient tower on the campus and to expand an existing parking garage. In granting the approval, the Montgomery County Board of Appeals required Holy Cross Hospital to develop a Transportation Management Plan to further mitigate campus parking. Among the

Holy Cross Hospital. Experts In Medicine, Specialists In Caring.

Mr. Edgar A. Gonazlez
August 4, 2011
Page 2

approved strategies are to increase transit use, enhance pedestrian access, and expand transportation alternatives, including providing zip cars and more bicycle racks.

And, in an effort to boost Metro ridership to the hospital, Holy Cross Hospital, with support from the surrounding neighborhood associations, has appealed to WMATA to change the name of the Forest Glen Metro to "Holy Cross Hospital-Forest Glen" Metro station. We believe this change in station name would bring even more visibility to the underutilized Metro station. In anticipation of that name change, Holy Cross Hospital expanded its shuttle service from the Forest Glen Metro to include patients and visitors. Heretofore, for liability reasons, the service was limited to staff.

As another element of that strategy, Holy Cross Hospital supports, and will participate in, Montgomery County's efforts to secure a TIGER grant to build a pedestrian-bicycle underpass from the Forest Glen Metro station to the east side of Georgia Avenue and, by this letter, offers a section of our campus to include a bicycle sharing station where patients, visitors, and staff can participate in the bicycle sharing program at Holy Cross Hospital and the Forest Glen Metro station.

This brief summary of Holy Cross Hospital's parking and transportation challenges and responses thereto, I believe, reflects our creative approaches to mitigating what is arguably a growing problem for the Metropolitan region. Getting the masses out of their cars and using rail and transit requires similar creative approaches. The pedestrian-bicycle underpass and the bicycle sharing stations would certainly fit with that approach.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Sexton
President & CEO