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**From:** Eileen Finnegan <finnegan20903@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 13, 2018 8:05 PM  
**To:** TPBcomment  
**Cc:** Council President Hans Riemer; Tom Hucker; Councilmember Elrich; Glenn Orlin; Debbie Leigh; Andrew Austin  
**Subject:** Comments on Visualize 2045 Constrained Element: Missing New Project

Dear Transportation Planning Board Chair Allen, all TPB Board Members & TPB staff,

There is a serious omission in the Montgomery County transit submission for new projects to be included in the Visualize 2045 Long-Range Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region. The omission is the New Hampshire Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project (NH BRT), part of the larger Montgomery County BRT system.

Although submitted as a "study" by MC DOT, this particular transit facility is integral to the regional transportation network, and should have full "for construction" status in this major TBP update, just as the 4 other BRTs submitted. **Please amend the draft plan to add this critical new project.**

High-density development is being approved in the New Hampshire corridor based on this BRT line being in place in the near future. Here are a few added reasons to gain your support for adding this important transit facility to the Visualize 2045 Plan:

- The NH BRT, part of the County's Transitway Master Plan, is a keystone element to the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan, connects the Montgomery-Prince George's bi-county area to the Purple line at Takoma-Langley Crossroads, and will service the growing FDA campus on New Hampshire Ave in White Oak.
- The NH BRT line has been identified by County Council as the next BRT to move forward after the three lines currently underway, i.e. US29, MD 355 and Viers Mill Road.
- The NH BRT is an acknowledged priority of the County Executive and the Montgomery County Council as detailed in the Joint Priorities letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation on June 29, 2017. The letter is attached; see item 4 under the BRT section on page 3/4.
- The NH BRT is critical to achieving the Non-Auto-Driver-Mode-Share (NADMS) goals of the 2014 White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan. This WOSG plan, approved without achieving transportation balance, is based on greatly increasing the person throughput on New Hampshire Ave with BRT transit.
- GSA is moving forward with the Food and Drug Administration Master Plan update for this growing federal agency in White Oak. An additional 9,000 employees are anticipated on the FDA headquarters campus on New Hampshire Avenue in the coming years. For more information on this pending update see: <https://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/166346>
- The NH BRT will provide high-quality transit for underserved communities along the Montgomery and Prince George's county line.
- The New Hampshire corridor is currently problematic. Given the additional density being approved with more anticipated, advancing this transit service in the TPB's CLRP process is critical.

I urge the Transportation Planning Board to request the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to amend the submission and add this necessary project to the 2045 vision for the region.

Thank you for your consideration.

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