



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Christina Henderson, Chair
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street,
NE, Suite 300
Washington DC 20002

Dear Chair Henderson:

The Prince George's County Council and County Executive, representing nearly one million residents in the Greater Washington Region, respectfully urges the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) to include the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) project in the Visualize 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) at the TPB's May 15th meeting. It is currently not included in the LRTP or the requisite Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The SMRT project will be a transformative project for the National Capital Region bringing a fixed-route, high-capacity transit service within a dedicated transitway in the MD 5/U.S. 301 corridor from the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station in Prince George's County to Waldorf and White Plains in Charles County. Based on the results of the Maryland Transit Administration's 2017 Alternatives Report and the 2010 Southern Maryland Transit Corridor Study, both Prince George's County and Charles County have integrated the studies' preferred alignment into the local transportation plans and master plan documents to preserve the alignment, promote transit-oriented development, reduce traffic, and foster a healthier environment by reducing greenhouse gases from automobiles. The SMRT project is currently funded within the Maryland Consolidated Transportation Plan for \$20 million and was recently awarded an additional \$5 million through a Fiscal Year 2024 Congressional Earmark.

The projected growth and current congestion and gridlock in the southern Prince George's County and tri-county (Charles County, Calvert County, and St. Mary's County) area leaves little doubt that the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit project will be completed during the next 26 years, if not sooner. The LRTP is the primary plan for the National Capital Region's strategy for the next quarter-century to improve mobility, support economic growth, and have a significant contribution on meeting the region's climate and air quality conformity goals. Thus, it is critical that the TPB includes this vital project in the LRTP. The regional partnership between Prince George's County, Charles County, and the Maryland Department of Transportation has positioned this project for the Federal and State funding received, including two recent federal earmarks, moving it toward construction.

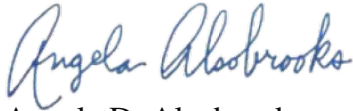
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For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council and County Executive respectfully requests the SMRT project be included in the Visualize 2050 LRTP prior to final approval.

Sincerely,



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive



Jolene Ivey
County Council Chair