

March 21, 2014

Art Holmes, Director
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Executive Office Building (EOB)
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor Conference Room
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: Mandatory Referrals for the Purple Line, Bethesda Metro Station South Entrance, Capital Crescent Trail, and Silver Spring Green Trail

The Planning Board reviewed the Mandatory Referrals of the above projects at our regularly scheduled meeting on March 20, 2014 and approved them with comments to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), as well as to the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). While the comments are directed to the agency that is most directly responsible for initiating a response, we have also requested that the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation coordinate a joint response by MTA and SHA. A copy of that letter is attached as are the Board's comments.

While MTA is the overall sponsoring agency that has proposed to construct the four projects, this is a large and complex group of projects that requires funding from different sources and approvals from different agencies.

One of the major areas of concern regarding the Purple Line project is that pedestrian accommodation around stations areas is inadequate. Since many of these stations are accessible via County roads, coordination between MCDOT and MTA is essential to prioritizing pedestrian access. The stations of greatest concern accessible by County roads are Lyttonsville, Woodside, and Dale Drive.

In regards to the Capital Crescent Trail, we are particularly concerned that transitions at the ends of the project in Bethesda and Silver Spring are inadequate. Trail use will be greatest approaching the central business districts, and particular attention is needed at the transition to Elm Street Urban Park and to the Metropolitan Branch Trail.

We request that you coordinate your responses to the individual Planning Board recommendations with MTA, SHA, and MDOT and provide them to us within 45 days. If you have any questions or comments concerning our review, please do not hesitate to call me at 301-495-4605, or you may call David Anspacher at 301-495-2191.

Sincerely,

Françoise M. Carrier

Chair