



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

September 30, 2014

Senator Karen S. Montgomery
James Senate Office Building, Rm. 202
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Montgomery: *Karen*

I know that many in the Olney community have expressed concerns about Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service and I would like to share my views with you. Please be advised that BRT service in the Olney area is a very, very long time off. It is not identified in the County's six-year Capital Budget planning process and at this time there are no County or State funds for it. At a minimum, it would likely be at least 15 years before we would even consider a BRT for Georgia Avenue, and even then the BRT may not extend into Olney.

More importantly, several major areas of the County are a much higher priority for BRT. Currently, the County's priorities for BRT are the three corridors where economic potential and viability will depend on transit: the Great Seneca corridor, which cannot fully develop without the Corridor Cities Transit way (CCT); Route 355, which will enable the build-out of White Flint; and, Route 29, which will allow our vision for the White Oak Science Gateway to move forward. These three BRT routes will all move forward to planning and construction before a Georgia Avenue BRT project is even considered.

Further, let me be clear - I do not support widening Georgia Avenue in Olney for BRT. It is clear that the Olney community, Chamber of Commerce and Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) are opposed to any impact on the businesses and homes along Georgia Avenue. I agree, however, there has been support expressed in the Olney community for exploring options for expanding or improving express service in Olney, and I will make sure that our Department of Transportation works closely with the Olney Community toward this goal.

I believe we should take a step back and provide ample opportunity for the Olney stakeholders to help us better reassess the long-term goals and objectives of the Olney/Wheaton BRT study. We have committed to the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA), the Olney Chamber and OTCAC, that they will all be an integral part of next steps in planning.

I appreciate your support of the Olney community, and look forward to finding a solution that promotes mobility and preserves the character, homes and businesses along Georgia Avenue through Olney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isiah Leggett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Isiah Leggett
County Executive