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Transportation Solutions for Northwest Montgomery County
Public Hearing - October 17, 2017
OPPOSE

The Master Planning process in Montgomery County is a thorough, robust and forward looking endeavor that provides ample opportunity for all perspectives to be heard. State and County law dictates how public facilities are to be planned following due process. The end product of the Master Plan process is an important document that guides the evolution of our community in a sustainable and thoughtful manner.

The extension of Mid-County Highway (M-83) north of Montgomery Village Avenue has been an integral part of the vision for the integrated transportation network of the UpCounty. The roadway is in the approved County Master Plan and many of the councilmembers currently on the County Council expressed support of the project in previous political campaigns. Most importantly, the need for better connectivity and more options for all types of modalities have only increased.

In Montgomery County, we are demonstrated leaders in simultaneously providing infrastructure and environmental protection. Environmental Site Design is a part of Maryland law and policy and is used by MDOT in the building of its projects. There are additional environmental stewardship features and practices that are applied in any number of situations. These can be seen in the Inter County Connector (ICC) which has proven to be more successful than projections had even predicted. The same high standards of achieving environmental best practices and economic development should be applied here.

By renewing the commitment to constructing M-83, the Council will be creating new opportunities for more transit, more mobility and more accessibility for more people to attainable housing in the UpCounty area.

MCCC rejects the idea that the additional capacity of a key component of a master plan can be ignored when determining future land use decisions. If this council is not prepared to follow through with necessary decisions or resources, that should be made clear. Directions to "not assume additional road capacity" so that new development does not rely on necessary infrastructure while preserving the right of way for such an extension is a complete abdication of responsibility and should be totally rejected.

This resolution is not a solution for transportation for Northwest Montgomery County and should not be approved.