



June 27, 2012

Honorable Isiah Leggett
County Executive, Montgomery County, Maryland
101 Monroe Street, 2nd floor
Rockville, MD 20850

VIA EMAIL (OCEmail@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Subject: Public comment on Transit Task Force Report

Dear Mr. Leggett,

The delegates and Executive Committee members of the Montgomery County Civic Federation are both angry and disappointed that the public was not provided an opportunity to comment on the draft findings and recommendations of the Transit Task Force (TTF) prior to release of their Final Report, as was specified in the Work Program that was established for the TTF.

While the Task Force Report has already been transmitted to you and released publicly as a final document, both the Work Program and the grant submittal to the Rockefeller Foundation made clear that a draft report would be made public, and that the process would require public comments which the Task Force would address in the final version of the report.

The Civic Federation urges that you keep the Work Program in place. We appreciate that on June 26 a county press release was issued which sets July 12 as the date for a public hearing on the Task Force report, and which establishes a process for receiving written comments. We urge that you announce a deadline for receipt of public comments and that, following the hearing and close of the public comment period, the comments be responded to by the Task Force, and that all testimony, public comments and responses be published as an official Appendix to the Transit Task Force Report. This Appendix, including responses to the public testimony and comments from the TTF, would then become a part of the official record. In addition, the Federation strongly advises that you receive and consider public comments on the TTF Report before transmitting any recommendations to the County Council.

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Lastly, we ask that the document entitled "Concept Plan and Cost Estimates for the Envisioned System", which was prepared by The Traffic Group and submitted to the Task Force this past January, be posted in ZIP file format through a link on the Task Force's website. We understand this TTG document is preliminary work, but the aerial route photos and cost estimates contained in it are essential to understanding the county Department of Transportation comments on the Concept Plan which comprise Appendix D-6 of the Task Force Report.

Transparency and citizen involvement are an essential part of any democratic society. As such, citizen inclusion in decision making will only be remembered as a hallmark of your administration if you make good on your promise to uphold these values by encouraging, facilitating, and considering public comment on all policy and project decisions made by the Executive Branch.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carole Ann Barth
President, Montgomery County Civic Federation
(email - cbarth@mindspring.com)

cc: all Montgomery County Council members