

## **How the Commute Has Hurt me and my Family's Quality of Life and How Mass Transit Would Help**

David Holly

Charles County Resident and Commuter

### **How the Southern Maryland Traffic affects me and my Family**

I've lived in Waldorf for the past 7 years and have been commuting to Washington D.C. the entire time. In the past, I've used the MTA commuter bus, but as of late, I've been driving to the Branch Ave. Metro station via route 5. I can attest that each morning it is quite difficult to maneuver through the traffic...especially since I have to report to work at 6:30 a.m. each day. I have to wake at 4:00 a.m. each day to attempt to get ahead of the heavier traffic to no avail. Tuesday through Thursday appears to be the heaviest of traffic and it's required quite a bit of my patience that results in frustration most of the time. It also is very frustrating to not have a consistent and reliable way to return to my home for appointments.....There is one mid-day commuter bus that goes to Southern Maryland each day-this at times have required me to take a little more leave time from work that I really want to. The commuter bus situation doesn't relieve the frustration of traffic since there are no designated bus or HOV lanes to reduce the travel time. The average time I spend transiting from DC to home each day is around 1 ½ to 2 hours...factoring in potential back-ups due to weather or accidents. This has affected my quality of life in a tremendous way-there are times I'm late for work due to the traffic issue.

### **How increased access to transit will help**

Adding a light rail to connect to the Branch Ave. Metro station will not only alleviate the traffic frustration for me, but it will provide me a consistent, reliable option to transit home in case of any family emergencies or medical appointments. A light rail is very necessary for the Southern Maryland area, especially with the increased population. I can't seem to understand why newer communities are being built with no option to address the traffic. I live in a neighborhood where at least 80% of the residents work in either DC or Northern Virginia and also have to experience the frustration of daily traffic back-ups. I feel the light rail project is long-overdue and would help the growing population tremendously. It would certainly reduce a 1 ½ to 2-hour frustration I experience each day.