



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

8400 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 375 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPAKMD.GOV

MAYOR

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March 4, 2020

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1424 - Public-Private Partnerships – Process and Oversight

Dear Delegate Barve and Committee Members:

On behalf of the College Park City Council and residents, I respectfully request your support for HB 1424 which would establish a Public-Private Partnership Oversight Review Board.

Public-Private Partnerships have the potential to leverage and extend public resources in a way that provides valuable resources to Maryland residents. In College Park, we are benefiting greatly from what is currently Maryland's largest public-private partnership – the Purple Line. However, if a P3 solicitation is not structured in a way that ensures accountability for the private partner and minimizes risk for the public entity, the resulting agreement could lead to a massive financial loss for the public entity – and hence the taxpayers. This risk is especially great when the project has a total value over \$500,000,000.

HB 1424 would help minimize the risk the public side of a massive transportation related P3 project by setting up an oversight review board and allowing sufficient time for public review of a solicitation before it goes out for bids. It would also require that the private partner establish solid creditworthiness and ensure that the public partner obtains the revenue of a project if the private partner is no longer able to maintain or operate the facility. The City of College Park supports these provisions in order to protect the investments of our public entities and our taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
21st District Delegation



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Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1424 - Public-Private Partnerships – Process and Oversight

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Committee Members:

On behalf of the College Park City Council and residents, I respectfully request your support for HB 1424 which would establish a Public-Private Partnership Oversight Review Board.

Public-Private Partnerships have the potential to leverage and extend public resources in a way that provides valuable resources to Maryland residents. In College Park, we are benefiting greatly from what is currently Maryland's largest public-private partnership – the Purple Line. However, if a P3 solicitation is not structured in a way that ensures accountability for the private partner and minimizes risk for the public entity, the resulting agreement could lead to a massive financial loss for the public entity – and hence the taxpayers. This risk is especially great when the project has a total value over \$500,000,000.

HB 1424 would help minimize the risk the public side of a massive transportation related P3 project by setting up an oversight review board and allowing sufficient time for public review of a solicitation before it goes out for bids. It would also require that the private partner establish solid creditworthiness and ensure that the public partner obtains the revenue of a project if the private partner is no longer able to maintain or operate the facility. The City of College Park supports these provisions in order to protect the investments of our public entities and our taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick L. Wojahn".

Patrick L. Wojahn
Mayor

cc: Members of the Appropriations Committee
21st District Delegation