

Testimony in Support of SB0843

I am Tony Hausner. I live at 203 Brewster Ave, Silver Spring, MD. I live in the Indian Spring neighborhood which is immediately adjacent to the Beltway just south of it, between Colesville Road and University Blvd. We have 800 homes. I am speaking in support of SB0843.

I oppose the managed lane plans for I495 and I270. I support transit solutions to the traffic issues raised by the DEIS.

Widening the beltway will result in the following impacts to our neighborhood.

- Impacting a number of homes that are currently right next to the Beltway. They will at least lose a significant portion of their backyards.
- A park and playground in the middle of our neighborhood would be significantly reduced as well as a county recreation center which is in the middle of the park and which our neighborhood makes great use of. Further, the YMCA in our neighborhood also loses significant property.

I have the following comments on transportation issues as discussed in Chapter 3.

- The DEIS study does not include all the way to Frederick which is an essential part of the plan.
- The DEIS mentions the Corridor Cities transitway, the Randolph Road BRT, and the North Bethesda Transit Way. However, the DEIS does not take into account whether or not these projects will or will not be completed. If these projects were completed it would significantly reduce the need for widening 270 and 495. Further, MDOT nor other agencies have not made any commitment to these Projects.
- The M-NCPCC recommended that the State examine using the ICC as an alternative to widening the Beltway. The DEIS dismisses this alternative without providing any analysis. We are very skeptical that this study has been adequately performed.
- The DEIS does not take into account the impact that COVID-19 has had on traffic. There have been significant reductions in traffic due to teleworking and much of these changes are likely to persist after COVID19 ends. Studies by KPMG and the Maryland Transportation Institute project a 5-10% long term decrease in traffic due to teleworking.

Thank you.

<https://tinyurl.com/thSB0843testimony>