



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**SB 843**

**DATE: February 22, 2021**

**SPONSOR: Senator Benson**

**ASSIGNED TO: Budget and Taxation and Finance**

**CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support with Amendments**

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**I-495 and I-270 Public-Private Partnership –  
Partnership Agreement – Requirements  
(Maryland Department of Transportation Promises Act of 2021)**

Senate Bill 843 would place in the State Finance and Procurement and Transportation Articles the public commitments the Administration has made regarding its plans to widen I-270 and I-495. These commitments include specifics about the use of toll lanes and the allocation of toll revenues, how land may be acquired, requirements for “community benefit” agreements, and the sharing of data.

Montgomery County supports this legislation. It is no secret that the Administration's Traffic Relief Plan remains controversial in the Maryland Washington, D.C. suburbs. Greater transparency and inclusion much earlier on in the planning process may have alleviated at least some of the angst the roll out of this Plan created among residents in Montgomery County. However, it is never too late to try to right some of the wrongs. Codifying these commitments will be helpful.

However, please note the need for a clarifying amendment pertaining to pedestrian and bicycle lanes on the American Legion Bridge (see below). In addition, the County is concerned that the language pertaining to the sharing of proceeds for transit investment lacks certainty that the funding will actually materialize, and if it does, that the State will collaborate with the affected counties to identify transit projects. This provision should be strengthened to better reflect the discussion that took place at the Board of Public Works meeting on January 8, 2020.

With these suggested improvements incorporated, the County respectfully requests that the Senate Budget and Taxation and Finance Committees advance Senate Bill 843.

On page 4, strike in its entirety line 2 and substitute “SHARED USE PATH FOR BICYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS, AND THAT IT BE CONNECTED TO ONE OR MORE EXISTING PATHS ON THE MARYLAND SIDE OF THE POTOMAC RIVER.”