



Testimony of the Rockville Mayor and Council
HB 67 - I-495 and I-270 Public-Private Partnership – Partnership Agreement –
Requirements (Maryland Department of Transportation Promises Act 2021)
SUPPORT

Good afternoon Chairs Barve and McIntosh as well as members of the House Environment and Transportation and House Appropriations Committees for the opportunity to speak in support of HB67. My name is Council Member Mark Pierzchala. I speak on behalf of the City of Rockville. This testimony has been approved by the Mayor and Council of Rockville.

We thank Delegate Korman for his leadership to bring this critical legislation forward. The City of Rockville would be the municipality most impacted by the I-270 and I-495 Public Private Partnership (P3) project. Yet, Rockville was blindsided by the announcement of this project and was not included as a partner with MDOT/SHA as are the City of Gaithersburg and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. We have closely followed the P3 process as it has unfolded so far and our support for HB 67 is based on our experiences.

We highlight the following key points for the Committee:

- We urge clarity on the promise of the Administration that no taxpayer dollars would be required for this project, to include dollars that municipalities and counties would have to pay to mitigate traffic, noise, pollution, stormwater, and other P3 impacts.
- We support HB 67 for its transparency and process provisions. For example, the State has not shared underlying traffic data even with the partners it has.
- We support HB 67 because it properly orders the sequence of approvals and prohibits the Board of Public Works from making decisions before it has all pertinent facts.
- The requirement which prohibits MDOT from submitting a contract to the Board of Public Works unless it complies with NEPA is essential for the protection of our community.
- We agree with the bill's support of transit alternatives, including the requirement for a Monorail Feasibility study; this nation can ill afford to continue its reliance on cars.

HB 67 will help to mitigate the impacts of this massive P3 infrastructure project on our community, provides increased transparency to the process, and supports transit alternatives. For these reasons, we urge this Committee to provide HB 67 with a favorable report and quickly advance it to the House floor for a vote. It is important that there is sufficient time for HB 67 to cross over to the Senate and receive a fair hearing and full consideration with that body.