



January 19, 2021

Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation
Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: HB 116 (Delegate Palakovich Carr): Transportation – I-270 – Commuter Bus Route
Study – Favorable with Amendments**

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and members of the House Environment and
Transportation Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing to convey our support for HB 116, with
amendments, which would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
to establish a commuter bus route between Shady Grove Metro in Montgomery County
and Tysons, Virginia during peak service hours, by October 1, 2022.

With more than 70,000 residents, Gaithersburg is located in the geographic center of
Montgomery County and lies 13 miles from the northwestern border of Washington, D.C.
Gaithersburg residents enjoy the best of both worlds - the familiarity and comfort of a
small town community within the exciting metropolitan area of the nation's capital.
Further, the City is home to more than 4,000 businesses and is part of the fourth largest
retail market in the United States. We are an international center for biotechnology and
benefit from our proximity to federal research facilities and regulatory agencies.

Point-to-point commuter bus lines offers residents an additional option to avoid the
significant and daily travel challenges on I-270. While the residents of Gaithersburg are
currently served by commuter bus lines, the MARC Brunswick Line, and METRO locations
in neighboring Rockville, many locations along the corridor have a limited number of stops
or are inconveniently located. Additionally, I-270 often provides a more direct route to a
resident's place of employment. We have long believed the solution to mobility along the
1-270 Corridor is one that provides more options to our residents. Further, a commuter
bus route will improve travel time for drivers, by reducing the number of cars on the road,
moving more people per lane, and making the transportation network more efficient.

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • cityhall@gaitthersburgmd.gov • gaitthersburgmd.gov

MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Laurie-Anne Sayles
Michael A. Sesma
Ryan Spiegel
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

While the broader I-495 & I-270 Public Private Partnership (P3) Program has the potential to enhance existing and planned multimodal mobility and connectivity, our region can no longer wait for these options to become a reality.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg urges a favorable report for HB 116, with amendments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. You may also contact the Legislative Affairs Manager for the City of Gaithersburg, Jess Kwasny. She can be reached at jess.kwasny@gaitthersburgmd.gov or 202.809.6986.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jud Ashman
Mayor