

Michael C. O'Connor
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FREDERICK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Room 251 Lowe House Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 15, 2021

LETTER OF SUPPORT HB 0116 TRANSPORTATION – I-270 COMMUTER BUS ROUTE STUDY

Dear Chairman Barve,

The City of Frederick supports HB0116. We are the northern point of a highly successful economic region that encompasses DC, Baltimore, Prince Georges, Loudon, and Fairfax Counties. We have been on a steady growth trajectory for the past several decades. Today over 3,500 businesses and 58,000 jobs are located within the City limits. We are home to Fort Detrick, the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, and three local colleges & universities. Frederick continues to offer tremendous opportunities for expanding businesses, corporate offices, and entrepreneurial start-ups.

Three areas located within the City of Frederick have been designated as Opportunity Zones. There are investment and development opportunities in these areas that encompasses the southern portion of Frederick's vibrant Downtown and is adjacent to the City's award-winning Creek-walk. We are located at the crossroads of two major interstates – I-270 & I-70, and host both the Frederick Municipal Airport and a MARC train station.

While we are a thriving, growing destination city, we still have many commuters that travel between Frederick and other jurisdictions along the I-270 and I-495 corridors, to the District of Columbia, and to neighboring areas of Virginia. Many of these trips are single occupant vehicle trips, adding to congestion and pollution in the region. Alternative modes of travel are an essential component of any effective transportation system. The study called for in this bill would provide a roadmap to a more connected region, better utilizing commuter bus within the current and future transportation networks. We are eagerly supportive of increasing connectivity between Frederick and the thriving neighboring communities.

The City of Frederick urges you to support of HB0116.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Connor
Mayor