



February 1, 2021

Madame Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Finance Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building – 3 East  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: SB 242 (Senator Young): Transportation – I-270 – Commuter Bus Route Study – Favorable with Amendments**

Dear Madame Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing to convey our support for SB 242, with amendments. SB 242 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.

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 SB 242, 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 202.809.6986 or [jess.kwasny@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:jess.kwasny@gaithersburgmd.gov).

Sincerely,

Jud Ashman, Mayor

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