



February 9, 2022

Senator Delores G. Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Maggie McIntosh  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Room 121  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Support for SB 514 / HB 778 Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)**

Dear Madam Chairs and Committee Members:

The Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg support Senate Bill 514 & House Bill 778.

These bills would require the Maryland Transit Administration to establish certain investment programs for enhancing services and rail lines operated by the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail service. This bill aligns with MDOT's approved Cornerstone Plan and draft Statewide Transit Plan (STP), which supports the expansion of MARC service on the Brunswick Line and will provide a 50-year vision of coordinated local, regional, and intercity transit across the state. MARC expansion was also a cornerstone of the adopted 2013 Montgomery County's Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan.

It has been our opinion that the Brunswick Line, which serves hundreds of Gaithersburg commuters, has not lived up to its fullest potential as a commuting alternative due to its limited service. Compelling the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) to study and complete 30% of the design for a third track between Rockville and Germantown would be a critical first step towards providing riders with midday, weekend, and bidirectional service along this line. This analysis would also define and identify potential property impacts caused by constructing a third line- a critical concern for the City. We'd add that run-through service to Alexandria has the potential to invite new commuters to use MARC services, reduce automobile dependency, and unlock a truly regional rail system that reliably services more Maryland communities.

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MAYOR  
Jud Ashman

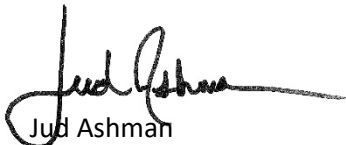
COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Neil Harris  
Lisa Henderson  
Jim McNulty  
Ryan Spiegel  
Robert T. Wu

CITY MANAGER  
Tanisha R. Briley

With two MARC stations located within the City of Gaithersburg, we respectfully request that the City has a seat at the table during the planning and development of a third track and expanded services along the Brunswick Line. It will be important for us to be there to provide input and present neighborhood concerns. If done without significant impacts upon adjacent properties, expanded MARC service through Gaithersburg is likely to be well-received by the community and has the potential to further our efforts to revitalize the city's Olde Towne neighborhood and support new development within burgeoning employment and residential communities surrounding the Metropolitan Grove station.

For all of the reasons stated herein, we respectfully request these committees grant these bills a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Jud Ashman  
Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg