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Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Public Utilities

Chair, Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1206 - MONTGOMERY COUNTY - SILVER SPRING PURPLE LINE CONSTRUCTION ZONE PARKING IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM MC 16-25

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
MARCH 4, 2025

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Downtown Silver Spring is home to hundreds of arts, entertainment, and food venues that contribute to a joyful and flourishing community. It is also along the alignment for the incoming Purple Line, which promises to connect Marylanders to the area and will be a boon for public transportation. In the meantime, residents and businesses in the downtown area face daily challenges with the Purple Line construction: blocked roads and pedestrian access, construction noise, increased traffic, etc.

Parking accessibility and affordability during construction has become a major issue affecting businesses' customers. Many businesses are barely hanging on and need support to make it through to the anticipated end of construction in 2027. Improving parking in the area might help prevent the loss of jobs and tax revenue if a business is forced to close.

This bill will establish the Silver Spring Purple Line Construction Zone Grant Program to provide funding for parking options to the areas of Downtown Silver Spring affected by construction.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1206.