



THE VOICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESS

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION PUBLIC BILL HEARING
PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 30, 2015**

BILL MC 24-15, MONTGOMERY COUNTY – TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) acts on behalf of its members to lead, connect and advocate as the voice of business.

This is an important issue for us because this chamber has always been a supporter of transportation funding and we agree that we have transit infrastructure needs that are not being addressed.

We applaud the county's effort to find a creative solution to address our transit needs.

Developing our transit system is key to our economic growth and competitiveness in the region.

We understand that the bill we are discussing tonight does not actually create the Authority; it authorizes the County Council to establish a Transit Authority.

However, we have concerns that this enabling legislation sets forth broad taxing and other authorities without clear processes, guidelines, or limits.

Our concerns are that:

- There are no limits or caps on its taxing authority,
- There is no clear understanding of the governance structure of the authority, and
- It is not clear that the authority will take into account the county's overall transportation funding plan.

Therefore, we recommend that the bill address these concerns so that it may receive maximum support.

We look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

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