



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

**HOUSE BILL 1050: TRANSPORTATION – I-270/US 15 MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR STUDY
AND WEST SIDE MOBILITY STUDY – REVIEW AND UPDATE**

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

MARCH 3, 2017

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports House Bill 1050** which requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to review and update the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study and the West Side Mobility Study in order to ensure compliance with federal and State project development process requirements for the approval and funding of major public transportation projects.

Strategic infrastructure investment is a top priority for MCCC and our members. Major infrastructure projects require detailed study and analysis. It is time to move forward with an incomplete study of a critical portion of the region's transportation network, that is the I-270 Corridor.

The present-day crippling congestion hampers economic activity and is an often-cited reason that people choose to leave the area, most recently in an article in the Washington Business Journal (2/28/17). MCCC members are in a competitive market to attract the best and brightest talent in order to continue to produce, grow and succeed. Addressing the significant congestion and mobility issues is one way to make Maryland more open for business and more competitive as a place to locate.

We applaud the Governor's initiative to develop short-term fixes for I-270 but we also need long-term solutions to address the economic potential of the I-270 Corridor that stretches from the American Legion Bridge to Frederick. New transit and road capacity is needed in any scenario and the studies required to be reviewed and updated in this bill would include both road and transit solutions and identify the most effective approaches.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report** on House Bill 1050.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.