



July 16, 2021

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002
Via Email: TPBComment@mwkog.org

Dear Members of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) urges the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board to reconsider its recent action and vote to put the I-270/495 Express Lanes project in the regional transportation plan. Allowing the widening of I-270 and the rebuilding the American Legion Bridge is imperative for the Capital Region to grow and prosper.

MCCC advocates for our members to compete in a globally and regionally competitive marketplace by promoting opportunities and removing barriers to progress. One of these barriers to progress is an inadequate transportation infrastructure. The proposed traffic relief plan is a significant step forward and can help alleviate one of the worst traffic bottlenecks in the country.

Relieving the region's traffic bottlenecks will increase economic activity, ease commutes, and allow for freer flow of commerce in and around Montgomery County and the Capital Region. Proceeding with this project will also create a more seamless managed lane network in the region. This improvement to the area's transportation network will significantly reduce traffic congestion and allow for improved regional transit services that can spur economic activity, create new jobs, and improve overall quality of life.

For these reasons, MCCC reiterates our strong support for moving forward with this project. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin".

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin
President & CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce