Statement of Principles  
US Route 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

We, the undersigned groups and individuals, support plans for BRT along the Route 29 from Burtonsville to downtown Silver Spring. An expanded transit system is crucial for economic opportunity for residents of the eastern part of the Montgomery County, and to the success of Montgomery County as a whole.

We urge the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to plan and implement fast, frequent, and reliable BRT service with the following features:

- **Dedicated transit lanes:** Dedicated BRT lanes wherever feasible. These lanes are essential for BRT’s reliability and will provide a truly rapid alternative to driving.
- **Frequent and reliable service:** Peak and off-peak headways of 6 to 12 minutes. Frequent service is particularly effective in attracting riders.
- **Metro-like features:** Off-board fare collection, level boarding, real-time arrival information, and distinctive vehicles are features essential to differentiating a BRT system from regular bus service.
- **Seamless integration with other transit:** The Route 29 BRT system should be integrated with other county and regional services like Ride On, Metro, and the Purple Line to provide a seamless experience for riders.
- **Integrated bike and pedestrian improvements:** Safe and easy access to the BRT stations for pedestrians and bicyclists is essential, particularly in view of traffic volumes on Route 29 and intersecting roads.

We are pleased to commend MCDOT for committing to no further road widening, and building the system within the existing roadway.

Bus rapid transit on Route 29 addresses longstanding economic and equity issues in eastern Montgomery County. It will provide reliable and affordable transit, connect workers to jobs, increase economic potential, reduce greenhouse gases, lessen air pollution and enhance quality of life for east county residents.

The future of Montgomery County depends upon increased investments in transit and walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods. We urge the Montgomery County Council and County Executive to work together to ensure the Route 29 BRT becomes a reality.

*Montgomery County Sierra Club  
Good Hope Estates Civic Association  
African Immigrant Caucus  
Greater Colesville Civic Association
Montgomery County Young Democrats
Montgomery County League of Women Voters
Tamarack Triangle Civic Association
Brook Farms Homeowners Association
Washington DC Metro AFL-CIO CLC
Progressive Maryland
Coalition for Smarter Growth