



February 21, 2020

The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks
County Executive, Prince George's County
1301 McCormick Drive, Suite 4000, Largo, MD 20774
Via: countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us

RE: Recommended FY2021 budget priority: fully fund phase one of the Transit Vision Plan

Dear County Executive Alsobrooks:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your upcoming FY2021 budget proposal. We were unable to attend the budget forum on February 20, and would like to provide some input in writing.

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. The Coalition for Smarter Growth is the leading organization in the Washington, D.C. region dedicated to making the case for smart growth. Our mission is to promote walkable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities, and the land use and transportation policies and investments needed to make those communities flourish.

As we have engaged Prince George's residents on concerns most important to them, the significance of quality bus service for the county has risen to the top of our priority list. We know that improving bus service is essential to the county, especially for low income riders who may have no other way to get to jobs, training, and services. At the same time, the county's bus services lag behind other jurisdictions in basic levels of service – offering infrequent service, short hours of service, and no weekend service. Given this, we urge you to seize upon the timely work of the [Transit Vision Plan](#), and make funding its implementation a priority in your next budget. We ask that you fully implement phase one of the [Transit Vision Plan](#).

In particular, we support the Vision Plan's scope of investment for short-term service improvements and connecting infrastructure. We ask that the FY2021 budget fund the first phase for the *major* The Bus routes:

- Improvements in service frequency;
- Improvements in weekday hours of service, so that routes would run to approximately 10:00 PM
- Expansion of service to Saturdays

In addition, the first phase of improvements should also focus on priority routes:

- Modifying routes to make them more direct and convenient
- Extending existing routes to key activity centers to strengthen connections within the County
- Utilizing Call-A-Bus to provide first and last mile connections in parts of the County that are not currently served by the County's fixed route system.
- Expand bikeshare and close gaps in the sidewalk network to help riders connect to bus stops.
- Improve bus stops.

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These first phase costs are roughly \$10 million. We ask that your budget program for implementation of this first, essential phase, and continue support for the rest of the vision plan for the full five year plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Cort', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cheryl Cort
Policy Director

Cc: The Hon. Todd Turner, Chair, Prince George's County Council