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THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION

July 8, 2022

Mr. Gregory Murrill
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 1520
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Murrill:

As members of the Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, we write to express our grave concerns over limitations imposed on the public by the June 17, 2022, release of the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Montgomery County, the most populous jurisdiction in the state, contains the entire Maryland geographic footprint of the Preferred Alternative.

The FEIS and its appendices total 26,500 pages in 74 files. Much of the material is new and all of it is important, given the enormity of the 50-year project, its multi-billion-dollar cost, major environmental and human impacts, and controversial nature. Yet the public is permitted only 30 days to review and understand this massive documentation – an impossible task – with no formal opportunity permitted for comment.

We ask that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to add an additional review and public comment period of 60 days, up to and including September 17, 2022.

The need for extended review and formal comment is essential because of certain decisions made by MDOT. The Department chose to defer the release of federally mandated analyses and other missing information until issuance of the FEIS. As a result, the public, its representatives, and reviewing agencies can only now begin examining long-requested environmental justice and greenhouse gas emissions analyses, mitigation plans, the project's recently changed traffic model, and MDOT's responses to the 5,000 comments it received during the public comment periods for the Draft EIS and Supplemental Draft EIS.

In a February 22, 2022, letter to the FHWA and MDOT, over 80 members of the Maryland General Assembly called for a redo of the project's Supplemental Draft EIS to include the key

missing analyses. Now that the analyses seem to have been included in the FEIS, we ask that you allow the public sufficient time to meaningfully review and evaluate what has been provided, and the opportunity to react to the material through formal public comments.

Sincerely,

Delegate Marc Korman
Chair, Montgomery County
House Delegation

Senator Ben Kramer
Chair, Montgomery County
Senate Delegation

Delegate Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment & Transportation
Committee

Senator Brian Feldman

Senator Cheryl Kagan

Delegate Al Carr

Senator Susan Lee

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian

Senator Will Smith

Delegate Bonnie Cullison

Senator Jeff Waldstreicher

Delegate Linda Foley

Delegate Anne Kaiser

Delegate Ariana Kelly

Delegate Lesley Lopez

Delegate Sara Love

Delegate Eric Luedtke

Delegate David Moon

Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr

Delegate Kirill Reznik

Delegate Emily Shetty

Delegate Jared Solomon

Delegate Vaughn Stewart

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins

cc: Mr. Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
Ms. Polly Trottenberg, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
Ms. Stephanie Pollack, Acting Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Adam Ortiz, Division Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency