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August 23, 2018

Maryland Department of Transportation
Lisa B. Choplin, DBIA
707 North Calvert Street, Mail Stop P-601
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Ms. Choplin,

In response to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) public release of alternatives for the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, I am following up on the Mayor and Council approved letter dated May 14, 2018. As promised, City staff evaluated the alternatives, and on behalf of the City of Rockville, I am taking this opportunity to provide additional comments.

I would like to start by thanking the project team for conducting recent public workshops including one for the Regent's Square community, a neighborhood immediately abutting I-270. Many Rockville communities are concerned about this project, and we appreciate your efforts to engage us throughout the process.

As we stated in our prior letter, the City still supports transit as a means of addressing traffic congestion. The City of Rockville is also open to considering highway alternatives such as modified, reversible or contraflow lanes and/or reconfiguring the local lanes as long as these lanes would be completely within the current I-270 right of way.

Specifically, we strongly oppose any alternatives that would result in the taking of residences, businesses, or City infrastructure. Additionally, we oppose any multi-parcel taking, elimination of sound walls, or any potential loss of City property to add lanes or widen I-270 in either direction through Rockville. Ten City of Rockville neighborhoods directly abut I-270, as does Julius West Middle School and the Rockville Senior Center. In a worst-case scenario, hundreds of homes and many businesses could be taken, causing major financial and environmental damage to property owners and the city.

The Mayor and Council will continue to stay actively engaged in the public input process to ensure that our residents and businesses share their ideas for solutions, and are protected from negative impacts. We ask that you give every possible consideration to our comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert DiSpirito
City Manager

cc: Rockville City Mayor and Council
District 17 Delegation
Pete Rahn, Secretary of Transportation
Greg Slater, Administrator of MDOT State Highway Administration