

The Honorable Isiah "Ike" Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

September XX, 2014

Dear Mr. Leggett,

As property owners, residents, advocates and concerned citizens within the White Flint area, we appreciate your steadfast support for our shared vision of the community's redevelopment. That vision, as articulated in the White Flint Sector Plan, is for a vibrant, walkable, sustainable community, one that will provide economic growth in the county for decades to come. Now however the actions of MCDOT threaten to undermine that effort. For that reason, we write to ask for your assistance in preserving our shared aspirations for a better White Flint.

The White Flint Sector Plan, in addition to providing a blueprint for responsible growth, also includes detailed prescriptions for the roads and other transportation investments needed in order for the larger vision to succeed. These "prerequisite" projects allow for new growth to occur without overwhelming the existing road network by creating new and attractive ways to get around, including wider sidewalks, bike lanes, rapid transit and a connected street grid to provide alternatives to Rockville Pike. This is what the community agreed to when it supported the Sector Plan, and what property owners agreed to when they agreed to the District Tax to fund those investments.

Unfortunately, this is not the vision MCDOT is pursuing. Ignoring four years of consistent community support for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, MCDOT has proposed a Western Workaround that includes none of the bicycle and pedestrian elements required in the Sector Plan. Instead, it is more of the same: wider, faster, and more dangerous roads at all costs. Not only is this approach an affront to the community it is ostensibly intended to serve, it actively undermines White Flint's ability to meet the transportation mode-share goals on which the entire plan depends. It is also profoundly wasteful. Rather than implementing the Western Workaround in accordance with the Sector Plan, MCDOT is proposing to essentially build the project twice: first the way MCDOT wants it, and then again decades later, if at all, in a way that provides the mobility benefits promised to the community.

We find ourselves in a difficult situation. While we all want the infrastructure built as quickly as possible, we cannot accept a design which threatens the vision we've spent years working for. Thus we ask you, as County Executive, to once again engage with us to help implement our shared vision in the White Flint Sector Plan. This will be one of the most important legacies of your tenure as County

Executive and we find ourselves at a critical juncture which will ultimately determine the success of the plan. As County Executive, we ask you to take the following actions:

1. **Direct MCDOT to work collaboratively with property owners, residents, civic leaders and other stakeholders** in the White Flint area to design the Western Workaround in a way that reflects the Sector Plan's vision for a multi-modal, mixed-use White Flint.
2. **Initiate a comprehensive review of MCDOT policies with regard to traffic projections**, trip modeling and related methods that the agency employs to determine the character of roads within White Flint. These methods should reflect the dynamic, pedestrian oriented environment that White Flint will become, rather than simply justify road designs that perpetuate the auto-oriented status quo.
3. **Send a letter to SHA, MDOT and Governor O'Malley** communicating the importance of designing and implementing infrastructure under state control in accordance with the vision of the White Flint Sector Plan. Further, we ask that you work together with the Governor's office to develop a strategy to allow SHA and MCDOT to jointly implement transportation projects in a way that reflects the multi-modal vision of the White Flint Sector Plan.

We stand ready to work collaboratively with your office to make the vision for White Flint a reality. Leadership from the County Executive office was crucial to the approval of the plan and is now clearly needed if the vision of this great bold plan is to be achieved. Please stand with your constituents and make this national model of best practices in economic development and community building a reality.

Respectfully,