



# **MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.**

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October 17, 2017

## **County Council Hearing on Resolution re: M-83 Transportation Solutions for Northwest Montgomery County**

### **Testimony of Pete Young President of MVF Board of Directors**

Good Evening, President Berliner and Members of the County Council. I am Pete Young, President of the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors. The Board of Directors represents the large scale community of Montgomery Village, which has over 40,000 residents.

We strongly support this resolution that sets out two important goals and is closely aligned with the MVF Board's Transportation Priorities, which we recently sent to you and the County Executive when commenting on the County CIP.

The first goal in the Resolution is to clearly outline how the council is going to bring congestion relief to our upcounty, including expanding capacity on I-270, implementing transit alternatives, including the Corridor Cities Transitway, BRT in the 355 corridor, and improvements to MD Route 355. We believe that the County is doing very good work on stepping up service along the 355 Corridor with the brand new *RideOn Extra* limited stop route that started this month. Let's push for more solutions like these, All of these transportation priorities will ultimately improve traffic from Clarksburg to Shady Grove. This Resolution puts forth a plan that is better for the environment and will yield community and economic benefits far greater than building M-83.

The second goal of the Council Resolution is to make it crystal clear to the Planning Board that the County Council does not want the Planning Board to make land use decisions in the upcounty that assume additional road capacity from M-83. This simply makes good planning sense, since this roadway has no funding, no support from the County Executive or County Council to fund M-83 in the foreseeable future.

The resolution also puts developers on notice that trip capacity previously projected to be achieved by M-83 will not materialize in the near or even mid-term future. This directive to the Planning Board is fair to developers and the community. It does not prohibit additional development, but development must be in scale with the roads that exist or that can be improved.

Thank you for this resolution; it sets up a practical model for resolving transportation problems in the upcounty, gives sound direction to the Planning Board on future development and some peace of mind for communities in Montgomery Village that have been vexed by the uncertainties of M-83 for many years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.