



## HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BOARD

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2350

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*Ron Hartman, Chair*  
*Jason Quan, Vice Chair*

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March 13, 2017

Jon Weinstein, Chairperson, County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Re: Support of CB 20-2017

Dear Chairperson Weinstein,

On June 28, 2016, the Public Transportation Board (“the PTB”) first discussed potential changes of the responsibilities of the Office of Transportation (“the OoT”), the Administrator of the Office of Transportation (“the Administrator”), and the (“the PTB”), as well as including the OoT as an official member of the Subdivision Review Committee (“the SRC”). Mr. Phil Nichols of the Department of County Administration presented to the PTB these proposed changes in the context of creating a comprehensive approach to transportation planning in the County. Since that time, the PTB has been working with the Administration to submit the proposed changes captured in CB 20-2017.

The PTB has discussed and promoted transportation planning that considers all modes of transportation to provide a more connected network of transportation options for Howard County residents, workers, and visitors. The current language in the code that outlines the duties and responsibilities of the PTB, the OoT, and the Administrator, focuses predominately on providing more transit opportunities. While providing transit is critical to the community, it must be designed in the context of the comprehensive transportation network.

Making the OoT as an official member of the SRC will allow the OoT to provide direct input on transportation issues related to new development and re-development that will be given similar weight to input provided by current sitting members of the SRC. This will have a positive impact as the OoT will be given the opportunity to ensure transportation options are being provided in the appropriate context as development and re-development projects are designed.

As the County, with the support of the County Council, embarked on an effort to develop a comprehensive Complete Streets Policy and Design Manual last summer, we believe the proposed changes to the responsibilities of the PTB, the OoT, and the Administrator are in keeping with that mission, and that the proposed adjustments will facilitate a more interconnected transportation network for our community.

The PTB fully supports the proposed changes with one amendment that the Administration will provide. This amendment will clarify the sixth responsibility of the Administrator to read as follows, “Providing technical and administrative support for the Public Transportation Board, facilitating the work of the Board, and seeking the Board’s input and recommendations regarding transportation.” This amendment was crafted based on the most recent discussions between the PTB and the Administration.

Once again, the Board fully supports the proposed changes along with the addition of this amendment, and we encourage you to support CB 20-2017.

Sincerely,



Ron Hartman, Chair

Cc: Calvin Ball, Vice Chairperson, County Council, Jen Terrasa, County Council, Mary Kay Sigaty, County Council, Greg Fox, County Council  
Allan H. Kittleman, Howard County Executive  
Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer