



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

December 14, 2010

Mr. Arthur Holmes, Jr., Director
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
101 Monroe Street, 10th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: MD 355 / Rockville Pike Crossing Study

Dear Mr. Holmes:

At our regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2010, the Planning Board reviewed the MD 355 / Rockville Pike Crossing Study. We endorsed the detailed comments in our staff memorandum:

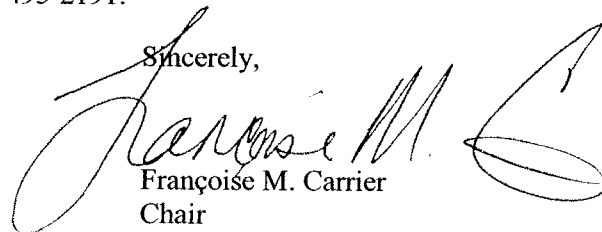
1. We support the selection of Alternative 2B as the Locally Preferred Alternative for the MD 355/Rockville Pike Crossing Study among the four presented for consideration.
2. Alternative 2B includes both deep elevator and shallow pedestrian tunnel elements. It appears that the deep elevator is the more effective of the two elements at reducing pedestrian travel times and at enhancing Metrorail evacuation, while reducing nearly as many pedestrian conflicts.

We support designing the shallow pedestrian tunnel to accommodate all pedestrians, including persons with disabilities, by including elevators to the shallow tunnel as part of the project. However, if the project is phased to construct the deep elevators first, consider whether additional at grade improvements are necessary to facilitate pedestrian movements across MD 355 for those not traveling to or from Metrorail.

During the meeting residents from adjacent communities spoke about the need to enhance the mobility and safety of residents who cross MD 355 and the need for a kiss & ride lane on the east side of MD 355. We believe that the BRAC projects, including this one, need to accommodate the community as well as the federal agencies and recommend that you consider these comments in the pursuit of these projects. As this project advances to facility planning and final design, please continue to keep the community involved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning our review, please call David Anspacher at (301) 495-2191.

Sincerely,



Françoise M. Carrier
Chair

cc: Susan Hinton, NIH
Jeff Miller, NNMCM
Christina Minkler, SHA
John Carmen, BIC
Robin McElhenny-Smith, WMATA
Phil Alperson, Office of County Executive

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