



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

July 13, 2009

Governor Martin O'Malley
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Acting Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive, P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Governor O'Malley and Acting Secretary Swaim-Staley:

I am writing on behalf of the Seven Oaks/Evanswood Citizen's Association (SOECA), regarding the Draft Purple Line Tunnel Report compiled by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). The report was compiled in response to my request to the Council that a tunnel analysis of east Silver Spring be part of the County's recommendation to the State regarding the Purple Line's Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). I am extremely grateful to the MTA for compiling the report in such a short timeframe.

MTA staff shared the draft report with me; however, I believe that SOECA's letter (see attached) raises many important issues that should be addressed as soon as possible, so that the tunnel option for east Silver Spring can be considered as a possible alternative to the at-grade alignment. I know that both alternatives for east Silver Spring, tunnel and at-grade alignments come with numerous pros and cons and different costs; however, it is prudent for both alternatives to be carried into preliminary engineering, so that the best possible project can be built.

I appreciated your prompt attention to this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Valerie Ervin

c: Mark Gabriele, President, Seven Oaks/Evanswood Citizen's Association

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