



City of Rockville
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August 3, 2021

The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Peter Franchot, State Comptroller
80 Calvert Street,
Annapolis, Maryland 24101

The Honorable Nancy Kopp, State Treasurer
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Board of Public Works,

The Mayor and Council of Rockville urge the Board of Public Works to delay its upcoming August 11 vote on the I-270/I-495 Phase P3 Agreement until it has adequate information to make an informed decision. While Rockville's Mayor and Council believe that the P3 project is deeply flawed, we want to emphasize the need to delay a vote until we have more information about the fiscal and environmental impact of the project.

Fiscal Reasons

In her report of July 9 to Senate and House Committees and the Department of Legislative Affairs

(http://www.treasurer.state.md.us/media/151465/20210709_sto_p3_agreement_report_final.pdf) the State Treasurer stated that outside assistance from the State Bond Counsel and Financial Advisor was needed to conduct an adequate review of the contract. Among her reasons for the expert assistance, the Treasurer cited the complexity of P3 agreements, as demonstrated by the experience with the Purple Line.

Inexplicably, the Treasurer's request for additional funding of \$100,000 was denied. As a result, the report concludes that there are "significant uncertainties around the costs, risks, and ultimate benefits of the Phase P3 Agreement." Given the uncertainties, the State Treasurer's Office should have the funds and the time needed to complete the additional analysis. Compared to the cost and impact of the I-270/I-495 P3 project, this would be money and time very well spent. It would be a failure of fiscal due diligence if the Board of Public Works were to vote on the Agreement without an adequate assessment.

MAYOR
Bridget Donnell Newton

COUNCIL
Monique Ashton
Beryl L. Feinberg
David Myles
Mark Pierzchala

CITY MANAGER
Robert DiSpirito

CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF
COUNCIL OPERATIONS
Sara Taylor-Ferrell

ACTING CITY ATTORNEY
Cynthia Walters



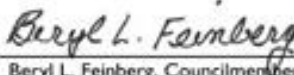
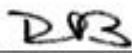
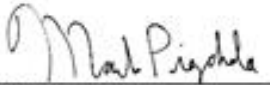
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Environmental Reasons

The August 11 vote far precedes the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and steps leading up to its issuance. In addition, the pandemic has shown that many vehicle miles can be avoided altogether by greater use of telecommuting. Rockville's Mayor and Council do not see how the BPW can vote on this project given the number and size of the changes since the Draft EIS was conducted. Further, this Mayor and Council have not seen responses to its comments on the DEIS, and other commentors have not seen responses either.

In summary, the impacts of this project on the state's fiscal health and on the environment are just too large to rush a vote.

Sincerely,

 Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor	
 Monique Ashton, Councilmember	 Beryl L. Feinberg, Councilmember
 David Myles, Councilmember	 Mark Pierzchala, Councilmember

Rockville Mayor and Council

cc: District 17 Delegation
County Council President Hucker and County Councilmembers