

MCCF Resolution on Proposed I-495 Beltway Expansion

Approved at the November 12, 2018, General Meeting.

Whereas the proposed expansion of Interstate-495 in Montgomery County between the eastern spur of Interstate-270 and Interstate-95 could greatly increase air and noise pollution in the area, with detrimental health impacts for impacted Montgomery County residents; and

Whereas the expansion of Interstate-495 could require adding very significant increases in impervious surfaces throughout the roadway, resulting in adverse environmental impacts, including significant harmful stormwater runoff affecting the health of local County creeks, streams, and rivers; and

Whereas the expansion of Interstate-495 could result in the clear-cutting of hundreds of acres of valuable parkland and protected forest areas, and threaten important historic sites in Montgomery County; and

Whereas the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., is skeptical about State claims that no homes or businesses will be taken as a result of Beltway expansion, that rush hour congestion will be significantly reduced, and that the project will pay for itself, with no taxpayer support; and

Whereas the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., has serious concerns about the accelerated timing of this project, the lack of community consultations, and the lack of transparency of the project's public sector planning process; and

Whereas the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., has favorably noted increased community concern about this project and, notably, the efforts of several Montgomery County civic and homeowner associations to jointly meet and discuss the project's implications for their neighborhoods;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION, INC.,

- COMMENDS the cooperative work of the impacted civic and homeowner associations to educate their residents about the proposed plans for Interstate-495 expansion;
- EXPRESSES CONCERN about the health and environmental impacts of Interstate-495 expansion in Montgomery County between Interstate-95 and the eastern spur of Interstate-270 on residents and the physical environment and emphasizes the importance of minimizing the associated impacts;
- EXPRESSES CONCERN about the lack of transparency and public input in the project planning process;
- CALLS UPON our public officials—County and State—to diligently work for measures to increase public participation in the process, as well as the amount of information about the project that is publicly available; and
- REQUESTS THAT all government entities conduct comprehensive, thorough, and balanced assessments that should include the effects for neighboring areas affected by all valid alternatives.