



Resolution on the I-495 (Beltway), I-270 Expansion and DEIS

Whereas the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) 18,000-page Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for SHA's proposed Beltway and Interstate 270 widening plan was released on July 10 with a comment period initially established for October 8 and subsequently extended to November 9; and

Whereas the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and other agencies have raised serious objections about the \$11 billion project and did not concur with the proposed list of alternatives and the objections included but were not limited to:

- a lack of financial viability and incomplete project costs;
- the proposed Limits of Disturbance (LOD) does not adequately reflect the area that will be impacted during expansion of the highway;
- an insufficient range of alternatives; and

Whereas the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., (MCCF) concurs with many of M-NCPPC's concerns; and

Whereas the MCCF believes that residents and Montgomery County government agencies need significantly more time to review, evaluate, and comment on the DEIS, as well as add analysis of the effect of the problems on the Purple Line; and

Whereas the MCCF believes that the underlying assumptions of the 300-page DEIS and its 18,000 pages of appendices need to be reevaluated in light of the changing economic and transportation conditions resulting from the global coronavirus pandemic, notably the increase in the use of telework and the recent decline in traffic volumes;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., requests that MDOT SHA place the project on hold until the health emergency is over, and that the traffic data analysis be reevaluated based on the new travel conditions.

Approved at the September 14, 2020, General Meeting #915 of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.