

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2011 Legislative Session**

Resolution No. CR-78-2011

Proposed by Council Member Franklin

Introduced by Council Members Franklin, Patterson, Harrison, Olson, Lehman and Campos

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction November 8, 2011

**RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION concerning  
High-Capacity Fixed –Route Mass Transit Service  
in the MD 5/US 301 Corridor

For the purpose of expressing the County Council’s continued support for the development of new high-capacity, fixed-route transit service on the 18.8-mile MD Route 5/US Route 301 corridor alignment between the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station in Prince George’s County and Waldorf/White Plains in Charles County.

WHEREAS, in November 2001 the Prince George’s County Council adopted Council Resolution CR-72-2001, recommending that Charles County should act in concert with Prince George’s County and the Maryland Department of Transportation on the establishment of rail links to the Metrorail Green Line; and

WHEREAS, The Prince George’s County government supported the recommendation of the 2004 Southern Maryland Transit Services Staging Plan that a fixed-guideway transit line in the Prince George’s County segment of the MD 5 and US 301 Corridor could be connected to the Pope’s Creek rail line in the Waldorf area, providing Charles County with additional mobility options; and

WHEREAS, in July 2007, Prince George’s County Council wrote to the Secretary Maryland Department of Transportation, stating that “the mobility needs within and around the MD 5 and US 301 Corridor require stronger consideration and provision for future fixed-guideway mass transit facilities” and that Prince George’s County supports the “future provision of fixed-guideway transit between the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station and Charles County” and “firmly believes that this concept deserves serious consideration by the Maryland

1 Department of Transportation and its modal administrations”; and

2 WHEREAS, in August 2010 the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) completed the  
3 “Southern Maryland Transit Corridor Preservation Study,” which defined an 18.8 mile alignment  
4 for future Light Rail Transit or Bus Rapid Transit from the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station in  
5 Prince George’s County to Waldorf and White Plains in Charles County; and

6 WHEREAS, since the completion of the Southern Maryland Transit Corridor  
7 Preservation Study in 2010, no additional funding for this project has been allocated in the State  
8 Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP), even though the current CTP states that additional  
9 “planning is needed to determine the role of a high-capacity transit service in the corridor”; and

10 WHEREAS, in March 2011 the County Council approved the 2011 State CTP Priority  
11 Projects List, which listed the Southern Maryland Transit Corridor as a priority for State transit  
12 programs and projects in Prince George’s County; and

13 WHEREAS, in May 2011 the Charles County Commissioners approved the 2011 State  
14 CTP Priority Projects Letter designating the accelerated implementation of high-capacity fixed-  
15 route mass transit improvements in the MD 5/US 301 corridor as Charles County’s highest  
16 transportation priority, and in October 2011 the Commissioners confirmed Light Rail Transit as  
17 the County’s highest transportation priority at a meeting with the Secretary of the Maryland  
18 Department of Transportation, and

19 WHEREAS, a new high-capacity, fixed-route transit line from the Branch Avenue  
20 Metrorail Station to Charles County would provide a tool for managing growth in the  
21 Developing Tier and for protecting the Rural Tier of Prince George’s County from sprawl  
22 development by focusing future growth and development around proposed transit stations in the  
23 corridor; and

24 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Council is committed to promoting improved  
25 air quality, reduced traffic congestion, conservation of energy and the use of transportation  
26 alternatives in the County and Region.

27 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Council of Prince George's County,  
28 Maryland, hereby reaffirms its support for the development of new high-capacity, fixed-route  
29 transit service—preferably light rail transit service—on the 18.8-mile MD Route 5/US Route 301  
30 corridor alignment between the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station and Waldorf /White Plains,  
31 which has been adopted by the Prince George’s and Charles County governments.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council requests the support of the  
2 Governor, the Maryland General Assembly, and the Maryland Department of Transportation and  
3 its modal administrations for the designation of this project as the State's next highest public  
4 transit priority in the Consolidated Transportation Program, after the Purple Line, Red Line and  
5 Corridor Cities Transitway projects.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council pledges to work in partnership  
7 with the Charles County Commissioners and other interested leaders in the region to jointly plan  
8 this project, pursue federal, state and local funding to accelerate the transit planning process,  
9 preserve right-of-way for the transit corridor alignment, adopt complementary transit-oriented  
10 land use and zoning policies along the transit corridor alignment and around proposed transit  
11 stations, and request the support of other regional leaders for this project.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council urges the Governor, the  
13 Maryland Department of Transportation, and the Maryland Congressional Delegation to pursue  
14 federal funding for the planning phase of the Federal Transit Administration's "New Starts"  
15 project development process, which must be completed before this project can compete for  
16 federal transit construction funds.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the  
18 Council to the Governor Martin O'Malley, Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, United States Senators  
19 Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer, Maryland State  
20 Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Maryland Speaker of the House of Delegates  
21 Michael Busch, State Senator Thomas McLain Middleton, Charles County Commissioners  
22 President Candice Quinn Kelly and Maryland Secretary of Transportation Beverley Swaim-  
23 Staley.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2011.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ingrid M. Turner  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council