

March 10, 2023

Honorable Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair
Prince George's County Council
1801 McCormick Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

**Re: Request for Re-Initiation or Extension to
the Timeframe for Preparation of the Staff
Draft Countywide Master Plan of
Transportation 2035**

Dear Chair Dernoga,

The Planning Department requests the District Council consider re-initiation of the Countywide Master Plan of Transportation 2035 and/or a 12-month extension to the timeframe for preparation of the current Staff Draft Countywide Master Plan of Transportation 2035 (Staff Draft Plan). With a new Council taking office, it is important that we bring Councilmembers up to speed on this critical functional Master Plan, and to engage each Councilmember individually to discuss the future of transportation and mobility in Prince George's County. With the size and scope of the transportation network, as well as the challenges inherent in transforming an auto-oriented, suburban transportation system to a safe, multimodal mobility network that supports the County's growth and development goals, we want to make sure we are thorough in ensuring the Staff Draft Plan addresses the full range of challenges and opportunities. An extension and/or re-initiation of this Master Plan provides an opportunity to reset this project to reflect current County priorities, including the implementation of Plan 2035 by identifying the necessary transportation services and facilities necessary to achieve the County's growth goals and integration of this plan with the County's Climate Action Plan.

To that end, we seek the Council's assistance in letting us know your ideas and concerns in advance of finalizing the Staff Draft Plan. A re-initiation or extension provides much more opportunity to evaluate all viewpoints and make defensible recommendations in the Staff Draft Plan rather than attempting to address Council input solely through the legislative approval process. This also allows staff to continue to refine and enhance the Staff Draft Plan's recommendations prior to its release for public review and comment.

A 12-month extension includes the potential for re-initiation of the Countywide Master Plan of Transportation 2035 in the summer of 2023 to ensure that Council input and updated project goals, concepts, and guidelines are incorporated into the project. Such a re-initiation would be timed to anticipate the Planning Board's granting of permission to print and release the Staff Draft Plan to the public no later than March 2024.

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Absent an extension, the current deadline for the Planning Board to grant permission to print and release the Staff Draft Plan is March 23, 2023, so Council action on an extension would be necessary by March 21, 2023. Otherwise, the Council would need to re-initiate the plan.

The Planning Department looks forward to working with the County Council as this Plan proceeds. If you have questions about the Countywide Master Plan of Transportation 2035, please contact the Project Manager, Scott Rowe, by email at brandon.rowe@ppd.mncppc.org, or 301-952-3521.

Sincerely,



Derick Berlage, AICP
Acting Deputy Director for Operations

Attachment: Draft Letter from the Chair of the County Council to the Chair of the Planning Board

cc: Katina Shoulars, Chief, Countywide Planning Division
Crystal Saunders Hancock, Acting Supervisor, Countywide Planning Division, Transportation Planning Section
Scott Rowe, AICP, CNU-A, Planner IV, Community Planning Division
Countywide Master Plan of Transportation Project File