



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director

January 6, 2009

The Honorable David Snyder, Chairman
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-4226

Dear Chairman Snyder:

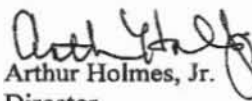
Montgomery County is advancing the environmental studies for the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing project with local funds to satisfy environmental requirements for Federal funding for design and construction. Montgomery County requests the Transportation Planning Board Steering Committee amend FY 2010 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program to include the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing study. We anticipate Federal funding from one of several possible Federal sources including the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) appropriations for the MD 355 Multimodal Crossing project. This study is exempt from air quality conformity purposes.

MD 355 Multimodal Crossing Project Study

The MD 355 Multimodal Crossing project is intended to promote the safe and efficient use of multiple modes of transportation between the west and east sides of MD 355 from the Medical Center Metrorail Station and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) in Bethesda, Maryland. **The study funds will provide for environmental studies to satisfy Federal requirements for the design and construction of an underpass** for pedestrians, bicyclists, shuttles and emergency vehicles. Montgomery County is funding the \$350,000 study.

This project is intended to: (1) increase the safety and efficiency of crossing MD 355 for pedestrians, bicyclists and possibly emergency vehicles between NNMC and NIH, and improve access for the disabled, (2) improve access to transit to increase transit usage and discourage the use of single-occupant vehicles. This is one element of a comprehensive transportation strategy in support of BRAC. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Gary Erenrich, at 240-777-7156 or via e-mail at gary.erenrich@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,


Arthur Holmes, Jr.
Director

AH:lh

Enclosure

Office of the Director

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Located one block west of the Rockville Metro Station