



November 26, 2019

Governor Hogan, Comptroller Franchot and Treasurer Kopp
Board of Public Works
80 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear members of the Board of Public Works:

Friends of Sligo Creek is a community organization dedicated to protecting, improving and appreciating the ecological health of Sligo Creek Park and its surrounding watershed. Previously we have expressed concerns over the near inevitable dramatic and negative environmental impacts of any expansion of the Beltway on our watershed as well as all the watersheds in the impact area, and well beyond. We consider it critical that any modification of the Beltway at minimum require stormwater mitigation of old and new build as all will be modified. Stormwater mitigation is a huge state requirement, as well as a huge environmental task.

Our additional concerns:

1. It is your job to act only after you've collected all relevant facts regarding Beltway modification. If anything, our concerns have increased over time. We attended a recent hearing at the Montgomery Planning Commission. The data grounding currently postulated options remains secret to the public as well as to the Commission. This is hugely concerning. Your decision to hold an additional vote by the Board of Public Works is premature if only because of this lack of public data.
2. These concerns, and any proposals can not be completely understood or evaluated until there is a complete Environmental Impact Statement done and then released to the state, counties and the public. You (and we) can't know what you don't know til that is complete. There must be no specific approved plan for expansion until that is complete and thoroughly considered.
3. All Climate Change reports, with their requirements of significant change in greenhouse gas emissions, and expectations of population expansion, require expedited equitable, environmentally sensitive and transit oriented projects. The costs of climate change are enormous; no mitigation going in the opposite direction should be approved in the face of this life and environment preserving mandate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kit Gage
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