

Hillandale Citizens Association  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
January 30, 2015

Testimony before the Montgomery County State Delegation  
Regarding MC 24-15 (HB 104) MC Transit Authority

The Hillandale Citizens Association Executive Board urges the Delegation to decline taking affirmative action on this local legislation. Furthermore we request your direct the County Executive and the County Council to work more collaboratively to:

- o Determine the expected capital and operational costs
- o Engage the wider community regarding expectations
- o Layout reasonable options for public consideration

If the result of this more inclusive effort requires additional State legislative action, a bill should be introduced in normal order for the 2016 session. Let's ensure that the County taxpayer is a respected and prominent player in this type of action.

At our association's January meeting last Thursday night, I reported that MC 24-15 was posted that very afternoon. In delineating the highlights, residents questioned the need for an independent authority, questioned "busting" the Charter Limit with a new tax, questioned the scope of the transit system being proposed, and were simply dismayed by the speed of this significant change to our County's structure with no notice or input. We concluded that we'd work with other associations and contact our District 20 Delegates to set up an informational meeting, since our County Executive and Council had not provided details or information. Our plan was over-taken the very next morning when the Delegation agreed to proceed with this late-filed bill.

We now ask for this bill to be withdrawn. Failing that, we ask that the Delegation stop this legislation. Use your position to ensure that once there is community agreement, there will be responsible action taken collectively by the Delegation, Executive and Council.