

9/30/2025

GGCC Testimony in Support of Special Appropriation to the FY26 Operating Budget, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Clarksburg to Montgomery Village Corridor Transportation Study

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am Paula Ross, CEO of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC). Our chamber represents over 450 businesses along the upper I-270 corridor and, on behalf of these members, I am here to strongly support this Special Appropriation to fund the Clarksburg to Montgomery Village Corridor Transportation Study as recommended in the 2025 Technical Update to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways.

It was disappointing that this Council chose the unprecedented step of removing the unbuilt section of M-83 from the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways. There was a strong reason why M-83 was included in our network of roads and transportation capacity when considering overall connectivity needs for the county – and specifically in the Upcounty. The need for this connectivity has not diminished; it will only increase as Clarksburg grows and Montgomery Village undergoes significant redevelopment, especially at the Lakeforest Mall site.

Road capacity is critical in the Upcounty to connect these burgeoning town centers. Commerce thrives when people can easily get to these centers of commerce – not just to commute to jobs, but to get to local restaurants, shops, and other businesses.

We need a direct connection from Snowden Farm Parkway in Clarksburg to the Shady Grove Metro and ICC to improve mobility and access to jobs.

Thank you to Councilmember Balcombe for introducing this Special Appropriation to begin the process of addressing the Upcounty's much needed road infrastructure. And, thank you to Councilmember Luedtke and Friedson for co-sponsoring.

I urge the full Council to support the \$100,000 Special Appropriation.