

# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

**MEETING DATE:**

September 8, 2009

**CALL TO PODIUM:**

**Fred Felton**  
**Assistant City Manager**

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:**

**Greg Ossont**  
**Lauren Pruss**  
**Rob Robinson**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: <b>From Staff</b>

**PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:**

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

<b>TITLE:</b>
Guidance on a Memorandum Dated September 1, 2009 Concerning the City's Position on the I-270/US15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

<b>SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:</b>
Staff will be seeking guidance on the attached memorandum.

<b>DESIRED OUTCOME:</b>
Provide guidance to staff.

MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor and City Council

VIA: Angel L. Jones, City Manager

FROM: Frederick J. Felton, Assistant City Manager

DATE: September 1, 2009

SUBJECT: City Position on I-270/US15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

The Alternatives Analysis/Environmental Assessment of the I-270/US15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study was released in May of 2009. Public hearings on the document were held in Gaithersburg on June 16, 2009 and in Frederick on June 18, 2009. As you know, this study has developed alternative highway and transit options for the corridor.

The Montgomery County Council is scheduled to vote on a recommended highway and transit alternate on September 15, 2009, and the City needs to provide input to the County Council. Additionally, it is anticipated that Governor O'Malley will select a locally preferred alternative for both components of the I-270/US15 Study in the near future, and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is seeking input from local officials.

Based on past discussions and transmittals to other levels of government, staff believes the following summarizes the City's position on the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT):

- While the City prefers a light rail mode and has strongly advocated light rail as the preferred mode for the (CCT) for many years, we understand that based on the current Cost Effective Ratio of the project, light rail would not qualify for federal transit funding. Given that costs associated with light rail inhibit the competitiveness of the project for Federal funding, the City is supportive of a bus rapid transit (BRT) mode. However, should there be a change in the applicable formulas, available federal resources, or data relied upon (such as ridership, planned densities, etc.), the City would prefer light rail if it becomes feasible in the future.
- The City is very supportive of the alternative alignments that would serve both the Crown Farm and Kentlands.
- If the CCT mode is BRT, the City strongly opposes locating the operations and maintenance facility at Site 6 on Metropolitan Grove Road.

The Mayor and City Council have not yet taken a position on a highway alternative, but staff recommends the following:

- The City support Alternative 7 with two restricted lanes in each direction between Sam Eig Highway and MD-85; however, the City would prefer High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes rather than Express Toll Lanes (ETL). This alternative would provide significant congestion relief while providing a funding source to support construction.
- Recognizing that Alternative 7 will cause some displacement, the City requests that the State Highway Administration work closely with affected homeowners, communities, and businesses to minimize impacts and ensure that the remaining communities are sustainable. Additionally, the State should offer to purchase impacted properties as soon as possible rather than waiting for actual construction.

Staff will be seeking guidance on this matter during the September 8, 2009 Mayor and City Council meeting. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to discuss.

FJF/ms

cc: Greg Ossont, Director of Planning and Code Administration  
Lauren Pruss, Planning Director  
Rob Robinson, Planner