



September 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590


Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. We're writing to express our support for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) request for funding from the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) program for its **Forest Glen, Wheaton, and Glenmont Community Connection Plan** project.

Georgia Avenue (MD 97) is a main street for several communities in Montgomery County, the state's largest county. It carries tens of thousands of people each day, whether on foot or bike, in cars, buses, or along the Red Line subway that runs beneath it. The Forest Glen, Wheaton, and Glenmont Community Connection Plan will **look at the pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and safety needs** of community residents along a three-mile stretch from Forest Glen Road to Layhill Road (MD 182) and identify approaches to redesign Georgia Avenue to meet those needs.

Crucially, this plan will also identify opportunities to **improve public infrastructure to support development** at the Wheaton Red Line station, where Montgomery County and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) have sought to bring investment since the station opened in 1990. WMATA and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation will work together to develop strategies to redevelop the Park & Ride and bus loop, **encouraging economic development and improving walkability and access** to the area.

This study will also build on the vision of MDOT's MD 97 Montgomery Hills project, which aims to **improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety on a congested, dangerous stretch of Georgia Avenue** from 16th Street (MD 390) to Forest Glen Road. This project will expand community connectivity, encourage economic development, support affordable housing developments, and provide better

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access to three Red Line stations and a major regional hospital. **Community members and local elected officials strongly support this effort**, and have worked for years to advance a vision of an attractive, walkable main street for the Montgomery Hills community.

As advocates for more equitable and sustainable communities—and as a resident of Montgomery County myself—we appreciate your careful consideration of the Maryland Department of Transportation’s funding request. Our organization looks forward to working with you to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and the last name "Reed" clearly distinguishable.

Dan Reed
Regional Policy Director