

September 8, 2014

The Olney Chamber of Commerce represents a diverse membership base made up primarily of business owners throughout upper and eastern Montgomery County. We also work closely with citizens groups and other stakeholders to facilitate analysis of issues which may be important to the Chamber and our constituents.

Based on the information gathered at a May 14, 2014 SHA BRT workshop presentation at Kennedy HS; a June 9, 2014 BRT presentation by SHA and MC DOT at MedStar Montgomery and a SHA and MC DOT BRT presentation July 29, 2014 to the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee, the Olney Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) resolves the following:

1. The Chamber strongly opposes the BRT design alternatives unveiled at the May 14, 2014 SHA BRT workshop presentation, except for the no build option.
2. The Chamber strongly opposes the use of special taxing districts and/or other tax programs taxing Montgomery County residents and businesses as a funding mechanism for Georgia Ave corridor BRT to Olney.
3. The Chamber strongly opposes taking of land and creating and/or widening easements for the BRT in the Olney town center as described in the above mentioned presentations.
4. The Chamber recommends that SHA and MC DOT pursue alternative transportation solutions. The Chamber further recommends that Olney businesses and Olney residential community are given adequate opportunities for appropriate and timely input.
5. The Chamber suggests some possible alternatives as follows:
  - a. Study and identify the transportation needs for this area and corridor.
  - b. Study the possibility of well timed, straight run non-BRT busses between Olney and Glenmont Metro during rush hour.
  - c. Study the possible improvement of intersections with designated turn lanes and improved signal and traffic light timing at existing intersections.

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Olney Chamber of Commerce