

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Maryland Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1924

Re: **Prince George's County Council's Strong Opposition to the Transfer of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from the United States Park Service to the State of Maryland**

Dear Governor Hogan,

On behalf of the County Council of Prince George's County, I write in strong opposition to the proposed transfer of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from the United States Park Service to the State of Maryland. We encourage you and your Administration to discontinue your plan to make this transfer for the well-being of all the people of Maryland, and all the people who visit Maryland.

Historically, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway was first envisioned by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in his original plan for the United States of America's new capital in 1791. The Maryland State government worked with the federal government during the Second World War to construct the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and with its completion in October 1954 created a scenic entrance into the Nation's capital.

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway has improved connectivity by linking the cities of Baltimore and Washington, as well as neighborhoods along the route, and providing convenient access to numerous locations of public interest, such as national and state parks, educational museums, and emerging suburban neighborhoods. These locations include the NASA Goddard Visitor Center, the Greenbelt National Park, the National Wildlife Visitor Center, and the Prince George's Hospital Center. Free and convenient access to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway has facilitated visitation to these, and many other, locations along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway is dedicated to the life and work of Maryland Congresswoman Gladys Noon Spellman, who dutifully and honorably served her State and community as President of the PTA, member of the Prince George's County Council, President of the National Association of Counties, and distinguished member of the United States House of Representatives. The Baltimore-Washington Parkway continues to provide these notable benefits.

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Despite the substantial development in the 70 years since its construction, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway maintains its picturesque scenery with protected wildlife, forest lined lanes, and preservation of natural aesthetic. The scenic and peaceful atmosphere of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway has been protected. Your Administration's \$9 Billion Traffic Relief Plan, which includes the plan to widen the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, runs counter to the protection of the Parkway's aesthetic underpinnings. In addition, the potential for toll lanes makes your Administration's Traffic Relief Plan for the Baltimore-Washington Parkway untenable.

As you are aware, the General Agreement between the United States Department of the Interior and the State of Maryland signed by you on June 22, 2018, provides that the General Agreement does not bind either party to completing a transfer or exchange of the Parkway. Further, the General Agreement provides that the Baltimore-Washington Parkway cannot be transferred to the State without Federal legislation. We would like to engage you and our Maryland Members of the United States Senate and Maryland Members of the United States House of Representatives in finding an alternative to the proposed transfer.

In closing, the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland declares its strong opposition to the proposal to transfer the Baltimore-Washington Parkway from the National Park Service or to any other entity as being against the public interest. Your consideration of the aforementioned policies to preserve the Baltimore-Washington Parkway would be gratefully appreciated.

Respectfully,

Dannielle M. Glaros, Chair
Prince George's County Council

Enclosure - CR-24-2018 - A Resolution concerning the Baltimore-Washington Parkway Adopted April 24, 2018.

cc:

Donald J. Trump, President of the United States

Mike Pence, Vice President of the United States

Dan Smith, Deputy Director, United States National Park Service

Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, United States House of Representatives

Maryland Members of the United States Senate

Maryland Members of the United States House of Representatives

Honorable Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Pete K. Rahn, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation

Matt Letourneau, Chairman, Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors

Senator Jim Rosapepe, Chair and Prince George's County Senate Delegation Members

Delegate Jay Walker, Chair and Prince George's County House Delegation Members

Rushern L. Baker, III, Prince George's County Executive

Jared M. McCarthy, County Attorney

Prince George's County Council Members

Robert J. Williams, Jr., Prince George's County Council Administrator

William M. Hunt, Prince George's County Deputy Council Administrator

Glenda R. Wilson, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive

Nicholas A. Majett, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive