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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION  
MANAGER JAMIE HENSON

**ATTN:** CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGER JUSTIN WILLITS, AICP

**FROM:** DISTRICT ENGINEER DEREK GUNN, P.E. *DG*

**SUBJECT:** MD 650 BUS RAPID TRANSIT STUDY AND  
SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING TO DESIGN  
PHASE

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 2, 2026

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### PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this memorandum is to formally acknowledge that the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has reviewed the MD 650 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study and supports advancing the project from the planning phase into the design phase. This memo serves to confirm SHA's alignment with Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) Flash BRT program and its commitment to continued collaboration with the project as it progresses forward.

### SUMMARY

SHA has completed its review of the MD 650 BRT Study and concurs with moving the project forward into the design phase. The study limits are MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue) from Eastern Avenue to Randolph Road. Among the alternatives evaluated, SHA favors Alternative 2 and the Hybrid Alternative which meet the project goals while minimizing right-of-way impacts and major reconstruction difficulties. In general, SHA prefers the use of curbside lanes over median lanes along this corridor due to pedestrian safety concerns associated with median lanes for BRT.

The challenges presented by reconfiguring multiple intersections as shown in Alternatives 3 and 4 come with significant challenges including, but not limited to: lengthy lane closures, maintenance of traffic, reconstruction of traffic signal infrastructure, potential right-of-way acquisitions, and possible utility relocations. The median lanes in Alternatives 3 and 4 also encourage pedestrians to cross from both directions of MD 650 for limited refuge areas in the median which may negatively impact pedestrian safety when compared to more conventional bus stations outside of the travelled way.

Mr. Jamie Henson  
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While this memorandum reflects SHA's support for advancing the project, it does not constitute final approval. Several design-related comments and considerations remain, which will need to be addressed during subsequent stages of design development. SHA shared these comments with MCDOT and received responses from MCDOT on December 3, 2025 via email. SHA looks forward to maintaining a strong working relationship with MCDOT to ensure successful project delivery.

If you have any questions, please contact SHA District 3 BRT Liaison, Lamar Leonard, P.E., at 301-513-7322 or by email at [lleonard.consultant@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:lleonard.consultant@mdot.maryland.gov).

cc: Jonathan Brown, P.E., Assistant District Engineer – Traffic, District 3, SHA  
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