



Oakland Mills Community Association
The Other Barn • 5851 Robert Oliver Place
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November 10, 2016

Howard County Council Members
The George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Members of the Howard County Council,

On November 9, the Oakland Mills Village Board unanimously voted to support Option 2, the Geodesic Spiral Tube, for Bridge Columbia.

One of the key objectives of our plan to reinvent Oakland Mills is to create a strong gateway to downtown Columbia. However, this design goes far beyond that: it signals to motorists on Route 29 that they are approaching the second largest city in Maryland. Lit up at night, it would be a natural for Howard County tourism brochures and websites.

We also hope this design will improve the safety and visibility of Bridge Columbia, greatly increasing foot and bike traffic. Right now, if you did a ridership survey, you might find many residents who don't know the bridge exists or are afraid to use it because of perceived crime and safety issues. We believe the new design will significantly shift those numbers, giving you a better idea of whether it's worth making a much larger investment in public transit by adding a bus lane in the future.

So we hope you will find money in the current budget to fund Option 2, which costs \$1,225,000 (only \$750,000 is currently earmarked for the project) so it can be launched during Columbia's 50th birthday next year. We appreciate the effort by the county Transportation Department and the county's investment in exploring the options for Bridge Columbia.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Thomas, Co-Chair
Oakland Mills Board of Directors

William R. McCormack Jr., Co-Chair
Oakland Mills Board of Directors

Cc: County Executive Allan Kittleman
Mr. Clive Graham, HC Office of Transportation
Mr. David Cookson, HC Office of Transportation