



## **North College Park Citizens Association**

Working Together To Improve Our Community

July 14, 2011

The Honorable Beverley Swaim-Staley  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover MD 21076

Dear Secretary Swaim-Staley,

The North College Park Citizens Association received a briefing on the proposed intermodal facility from Sharon Daboin of the CSX Railroad and Bradley Smith of your department at our May 2011 meeting. I am writing to convey to you the unanimous opposition of the Association to the construction of this facility at the Beltsville location.

For more than a decade, the Maryland DOT has been unable to find funds for the upgrading of Route 1 in College Park. The DOT has only just now found funds for engineering the improvements, with the actual construction still a distant dream. The road traffic associated with this facility is expected to average perhaps 350 additional container trucks per day, with a maximum capacity above 700 trucks. If the Beltsville location were chosen, then inevitably a very large share of these trucks would have to use Route 1, and they will tend to wreck the County plan for a safe, pedestrian-friendly corridor for developing College Park. A Beltsville intermodal facility would be inconsistent with two decades of planning by the State, the County, and the City.

Truck traffic will not be limited to Route 1. It will also heavily impact Sunnyside Avenue, a county road, and Route 201. Neither road is built to handle the additional burden. DOT simply does not have the funds to mitigate the necessary impacts at this location.

Our members also expressed concern about the specific site proposed, which is owned by the US Department of Agriculture. There are reasons that this site has never been developed, or even used intensively for agricultural experiments. A truck/train interchange at this location would damage the Indian Creek watersheds and the surrounding wetlands.



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Sincerely,

Mark Shroder  
President

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21st District Delegation

Mary Lehman, County Council

Mayor Andy Fellows and City

Council