

Introduced by: Councilmember Kostiuk

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**RESOLUTION 2019-7**

**OPPOSING WIDENING OF THE CAPITAL BELTWAY**

- WHEREAS, there is a proposed plan to widen the Maryland portion of the Capital Beltway (I-495) with four express toll lanes, and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is undertaking the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study to examine various forms of Beltway widening as well as transit improvements; and
- WHEREAS, State legislation concerning the proposed Capital Beltway project has been introduced, and the City Council believes that it is important to comment on this proposed legislation; and
- WHEREAS, widening the Capital Beltway for toll lanes would result in destruction of private property and displacement of people from their homes and businesses, as well as destruction of the character of neighborhoods in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties through increased noise, regional traffic, and pollution; and
- WHEREAS, additional lanes on the Capital Beltway are likely to increase the number of cars and trucks moving through the region rather than promoting safer, greener, more equitable transportation alternatives; and
- WHEREAS, research has shown that increasing roadway capacity often encourages more people to drive, thus potentially failing to improve congestion; and
- WHEREAS, increased vehicular traffic on the Capital Beltway will likely result in more traffic on regional and local roads such as those in Takoma Park; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council remains opposed to widening Highway 410 (Ethan Allen Avenue/Philadelphia Avenue) in Takoma Park for vehicular traffic; and
- WHEREAS, more traffic on the Capital Beltway and local roads will result in increased pollution through additional carbon emissions, which are a contributor to accelerating climate change, and could also have negative health impacts due to increased air pollutants; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed widening runs through or over several environmentally sensitive and officially protected areas such as Sligo Creek, Rock Creek and Northwest Branch Parks; and

WHEREAS, MDOT is proceeding with engineering studies for this project despite an incomplete Environmental Impact Statement; and

WHEREAS, tolls are regressive forms of taxation that disproportionately affect low income residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City Council opposes the widening of the Capital Beltway for toll lanes and calls on State officials to seek alternatives that reduce the number of individual cars on the road and that bolster public transportation options.

**Adopted by the Takoma Park City Council this 13th day of February, 2019.**

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk