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KENTLANDS TRANSIT ACCESS ENDANGERED BY UNIVERSITY MOVE

A proposal by the University of Maryland could prevent the future Corridor Cities Transitway from reaching Kentlands, the Action Committee for Transit warned today.

In a letter to Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz, the transit riders' group pointed to a proposal by the administration of the university's College Park campus that could block the transit routes recommended in the city's new Kentlands Boulevard Commercial District master plan.

The College Park administration is arguing for minimum setbacks of several hundred feet between research buildings and transitways. The new master plan recommends transitway routes in Kentlands that are located directly across Great Seneca Highway from the new research building that MedImmune plans to build this spring.

While transit engineers are convinced that there is no need for setbacks of this kind, ACT pointed out, Gaithersburg is at risk if the Maryland Transit Administration accedes to the university administration's request. The organization recommended that construction of the new MedImmune building be delayed until the setback issue is resolved, in order to preserve the option -- which ACT has long supported -- of building the transitway through Kentlands.

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