

# Action Committee for Transit

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[www.actfortransit.org](http://www.actfortransit.org)

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My name is Cindy Snow. I am testifying on behalf of Action Committee for Transit (ACT), a 500+ member strong grassroots transit advocacy group in Montgomery County. ACT is very concerned about the proposed cuts to Ride-On bus service. We are opposed to the cuts and feel it is imperative that service be retained at current levels, if not increased.

With this in mind, we are encouraged with the proposed recommendations to increase parking fees. ACT supports the proposed increases to the parking rates within the Bethesda Parking Lot District (PLD), as well as the proposed increases to the Parking Convenience Sticker, carpool permits, Daily Parking Permit for the Bethesda PLD, and for the Daily Maximum and a Lost Ticket in Garage 49. We also support the proposed increases to the parking rates in areas outside of parking lot districts, as well as the proposed increase to the Parking Convenience Sticker in these areas.

These proposals are a good first step toward the recommendation by Montgomery County's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) in their Report 2009-6, dated December 9, 2008:

*"... OLO also found that the County simultaneously implements parking policies that undercut efforts to encourage commuters to choose alternative travel modes.*

*OLO recommends the Council act to improve the consistency of the County's transportation demand management policies and practices."*

We encourage the County to approve these parking rate increases. We would also like to see the revenue from the increases be used to eliminate the proposed cuts to Ride-On service. Additionally, we would like the County to discontinue its policy of transferring revenue from parking fines to the parking districts to build more parking spaces. This is contrary to OLO's recommendation mentioned above. Instead it is reasonable that some of the parking fine revenue be used to preserve and improve Ride-On bus service.

Thank you.