

**Tell Comptroller Peter Franchot:
NO VOTE on the toll-lane contract until
AFTER the environmental review is complete!**

Soon, the Maryland Department of Transportation will ask the Board of Public Works (BPW) to approve the first contract for the massive I-495/I-270 toll-lane project. MDOT is rushing the contract to a vote **BEFORE** the mandatory environmental review process is completed. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) won't be issued until the fall.

Peter Franchot is the deciding vote on the BPW. Tell him and the BPW to **delay** voting on the first contract until **AFTER** the FEIS is issued. Here are some points to use in your message:

- The normal process nationwide and in Maryland (even for the Purple Line) is to complete a big project's mandatory FEIS **before** contracts are approved.
- The FEIS will be the primary source of essential information about the real cost to taxpayers and the project's immense impact on our communities and environment.
- The first contract (the Predevelopment Agreement) grants a private Australian company **the exclusive, sole-source right to build and operate Phase 1 of the project for the next 50 years.**¹ Phase 1 includes the American Legion Bridge and I-270 up to I-370.
- MDOT's rush to a vote may cause an enormous waste of money. The contractor will get \$50 million taxpayer dollars if Phase 1 fails to proceed because of the results of the environmental review.
- On March 10, [Peter Franchot said](#) this about implementing Phase 1 of the toll-lane project: "...we'll be able to see whether there's any relief of traffic congestion and any real uproar over the tolls...we'll see how it goes." That's just plain irresponsible! About those tolls, he said travelers could "pay an extra \$20 to get much more quickly over the American Legion Bridge."² \$20 -- each way? He should know there will be an uproar!

**** Email Peter Franchot today care of egontrum@marylandtaxes.gov. ****

**** Email all three members of the BPW at email.bpw@maryland.gov. ****

Thank you! This message is from the all-volunteer DontWiden270.org.

¹ You can find the sole-source terms in the [Phase P3 Agreement](#) (p. 6, Section 4 a.).

² Tolls quote at minute 24:00-24:20; traffic congestion quote at 27:03-27:29.