

Testimony of Janet Gallant
MDTA Board Meeting
April 30, 2020

Dontwiden270.org, with over 1,000 members, strongly advocates for fair, effective, multi-modal transportation, **supported by evidence that it will actually work**. Our organization is calling for a **pause** to the \$11 billion P3 project and then a reassessment after the pandemic subsides.

The State's decision to forge ahead along the **pre-pandemic timeline** does not show good stewardship of Maryland's financial well-being. The MDOT contracting process alone is costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. This, despite projections of massive state budget cuts and enormous economic uncertainty.

To continue the P3 contracting process now ignores the extraordinary risks to taxpayers. All of the current project's key financials, including the all-important projected tolls, are based on assumptions and projections that no longer apply. The underlying business case and risk assessments are made obsolete.

No one knows how bad the fiscal hits will be. No one knows how many businesses will adopt telework, how many jobs won't come back, and what post-pandemic traffic patterns will look like.

Most particularly, no one knows how much higher tolls will have to be to offset the heightened risks.

Any contractor for this project would **ensure** that -- one way or another -- the State and its taxpayers **share** the risks, including the risk of insufficient toll revenues and WSSC's recently revealed \$2 billion charge for utility relocations.

We are asking for a pause and reevaluation of this project because that is the smart and **sensible** way to position our state for what's coming.