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MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
PHASE 1 SOUTH TOLL RATE RANGE SETTING PROCESS
AMERICAN LEGION BRIDGE - I-270 to I-370
PUBLIC HEARING - AFTERNOON SESSION
JULY 14, 2021

Transcription Services By: CRC Salomon

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording;

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 HEARING OFFICER: I'm Andrew Bing and I will be the
3 hearing officer for today's hearing. The Maryland
4 Transportation Authority, abbreviated as MDTA -- the MDTA
5 is conducting this first of two call in public hearing
6 testimony sessions on the toll rate range setting process
7 for phase one South American Legion bridge I 270 to I 370.

8 As the hearing officer responsible for running today's
9 public hearing and on behalf of the MDTA, I welcome you.
10 The purpose of this public hearing is for interested
11 parties to provide official testimony and comments for the
12 public record of the tolling proposal for phase one South
13 American Legion bridge I 270 to I 370 which includes
14 proposed toll rate ranges, soft rate caps, and escalation
15 process and discounts. We hope you've had the chance to
16 review the public hearing materials related to this
17 tolling proposal on the project webpage at
18 MDTA.maryland.gov/alb270tollsetting. Today, we will
19 introduce the MDTA board members present for the public
20 hearing, explain title six, and the Civil Rights Act of
21 1964, and identify ways for you to comment on the tolling

1 proposal. I will then review the hearing procedures and
2 open the phone line for live testimony. Today's public
3 hearing is being live streamed via the Internet and Phone
4 and audio recorded. The official transcript of the public
5 hearing testimony will become part of the project record
6 and will be available for public review on the MDTA is
7 phase one South American Legion bridge I 270 to I 370 toll
8 rate reign setting webpage. I would now like to introduce
9 the executive director of the MDTA, Jim Ports. Executive
10 Director Ports will introduce the MDTA board.

11 MR. PORTS: Okay, I'm not hearing executive
12 director Ports, so I'm going to go ahead and introduce
13 the board on behalf of Mr. Ports. So I'm going to
14 introduce those who are in attendance for today's hearing.

15 First, MDTA acting Chairman Sean Powell, MDTA Board
16 Member Dante Carol, MDTA Board Member William Cox, MDTA
17 Board Member W. Lee Gaines Junior, MDTA Board Memeber Mario
18 Gangemi, MDTA Board Member Cynthia Penny Ardinger, MDTA
19 Board Member John Von Paris.

20 On behalf of the MDTA Title VI officer, I will
21 explain the significance of Title VI and how it relates to

1 the tolling proposal. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
2 1964 was put into effect to prohibit discrimination
3 on the basis of race, color or national origin. To support
4 the Act, the United States government designated additional
5 statutes, laws, regulations and executive orders, provide
6 guidance for the effective execution of the objectives of
7 Title VI. MDTA is responsible for upholding the principles
8 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act 1964 and related
9 guidance. MDTA's policies and programs should not
10 discriminate against people on the grounds of race, color,
11 national origin, sex, age, English proficiency, income
12 level, or disability. MDTA policies and programs should
13 avoid disproportionately high or adverse impacts on
14 minority populations and low-income populations. MDTA
15 seeks to provide citizens, stakeholder groups, and other
16 interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be
17 involved in the total rate setting process. Title VI
18 information can be found on the project webpage at
19 MDTA.maryland.gov/alb272tollsetting. If you have
20 questions or need assistance, call 410-537-6720.

21 We invite you to take our voluntary demographic

1 survey online to help us ensure that we are reaching the
2 communities that are affected by the toll rate range
3 setting process. For more information regarding Title VI
4 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other
5 non-discrimination laws, please review the Civil Rights
6 under Title VI brochure. Any member of the public has the
7 right to file a discrimination complaint against the MDTA
8 if they feel the MDTA does not comply with Title VI of the
9 Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the related statutes.

10 There are multiple ways to comment on the toll rate
11 range proposal. You can provide verbal testimony through
12 this public hearing testimony session. You may also
13 provide call-in testimony by calling 855-701-1977 and
14 leaving a voicemail message that is limited to three
15 minutes. Additionally, comment forms may be completed
16 online or sent to the MDTA via email or US mail. More
17 details on ways to comment can be found on the MDTA
18 website at MDTA.maryland.gov/alb270tollsetting. Comments
19 must be received before five o'clock p.m. on Thursday,
20 August 12th, 2021. All comments received, whether at the
21 hearing through verbal testimony or through other methods

1 such as comment form, email or US mail will be given equal
2 consideration.

3 Again, the purpose of this public hearing is to
4 allow interested parties to provide public comments on
5 the toll rate range proposal for phase one South
6 American Legion bridge I 270 to I 370. Today's public
7 hearing is being broadcasted via an internet livestream
8 and by phone. The MDTA board members will be listening to
9 all public testimony. My role as the hearing officer is
10 to run a professional and orderly public hearing. I
11 understand how important the issues are related to the
12 toll proposal, and I take my role as hearing officer
13 seriously. I'm committed to providing members of the
14 public an opportunity to provide comments in a fair,
15 professional and orderly manner. Offensive or profane
16 language will not be allowed. After one warning, if
17 offensive or profane language continues, the call will be
18 ended where speaker will be disconnected. I also want to
19 let everyone know that we will not be answering questions
20 or responding to any comments made during the hearing. If
21 you have joined us today to listen to the public hearing

1 and would like to provide live testimony but have not yet
2 registered, please go to the MDTA website at
3 [MDTA.maryland.gov/alb270tollsetting](https://mdta.maryland.gov/alb270tollsetting) or call 443-359-6218
4 to register. We are interested in hearing comments from
5 everyone. Please remember that the hearing is being
6 recorded. Speak directly and clearly into your phone and
7 provide your full name, address and any organization you
8 may represent.

9 To ensure time for all to be heard, there will be a
10 three minute time limit for public testimony and a five
11 minute time limit for elected officials. The time will
12 start after you introduce yourself. When providing
13 testimony, a single tone will sound when there are 30
14 seconds remaining. A double tone will sound when you have
15 10 seconds remaining and at this point, you should wrap up
16 your testimony. As the hearing officer if you're unable
17 to conclude your comments at the end of your time period,
18 I will ask you to wrap up your testimony and then I will
19 end the call and move on to the next person in the queue.

20 I would like to provide additional instructions to
21 help get callers into the speaker queue. Once you call

1 855-925-2801 and enter your access code, please listen to
2 the entire welcome message. Once the welcome message and
3 you will hear "for more options press star," at that point
4 press the start button and when prompted press three to
5 enter the speaker queue.

6 At this time, I will call on the first person speaker
7 queue to provide comments. As a courtesy elected officials
8 will be given priority to speak and as noted earlier, will
9 be provided five minutes to provide testimony.

10 Okay, so thank you everyone for allowing me to make
11 those opening remarks. I, again, want to apologize that we
12 were not able to get executive director Ports on to
13 introduce the board members. I know he wanted to do that
14 personally, but we seem to have a technical issue there,
15 but we are going to move on to our callers. Our first
16 caller that we have is Tony Hausner. After Tony will be
17 Michael Sakata. Tony, after the automated message please
18 state your name, spell your name, provide your address and
19 any organization that you may be representing.

20 MR. HAUSNER: Hi, I am Tony Hausner, T-O-N-Y,
21 H-A-U-S-N-E-R, 203 Brewster Avenue, Silver Spring,

1 Maryland, 20901. I live in the Indian Spring neighborhood
2 which is right next to the Beltway. Our Civic Association
3 has voted against Beltway widening, but I am speaking for
4 myself today. I testified at the last August hearing on
5 the DEI draft that there were many flaws in the traffic
6 analysis of that draft, including failing to adequately
7 examine the ICC option, not examining transit solutions
8 and a number of other deficiencies. Further widening of
9 these highways will be very destructive in many ways, both
10 environmentally to historic properties and lots of other
11 deficiencies. You can see my testimony which has included
12 in a link from that time period. As others have pointed
13 out, this toll rate proposal significantly favors the
14 wealthy who can afford the high toll roads that are
15 expected at the expense of those with middle and lower
16 income levels. This is definitively unfair to middle and
17 lower income level populations. Further, the ramps to the
18 toll lanes will be very destructive in many ways to the
19 environment of property, etcetera. There are a number of
20 possible transit solutions that will be much better for
21 the environment, reversible lanes and they will provide

1 much more effective for all income levels of commuters.

2 Thank you. That ends my testimony.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hausner.

4 We're now going to go on to Michael Sakata. After Michael
5 will be John Townsend. Michael, after the automated
6 message, please state your name, spell your name, provide
7 your address and any organization that you may be
8 representing.

9 MR. SAKATA: Thank you. I'm Michael Sakata,
10 M-I-C-H-A-E-L, S-A-K-A-T-A, 240 Governmental Road, Glen
11 Burnie, Maryland, 21061. I'm the president and CEO of the
12 Maryland transportation builders and materials
13 Association. MTMA represents over 21,000 workers and
14 business owners in the metropolitan Maryland construction
15 industry. Maryland is in a unique position with how toll
16 rates are set. While the revenue from the tolls will pay
17 for the I 495 by 270 and the American Legion bridge
18 project, and MDTA has actually full control and sets the
19 prices for the tolling. Maryland is one of only a couple
20 of states with rate caps on their variable price tolling
21 systems. These statutory exceptions are essential

1 protections for consumers. In fact, the average cost per
2 trip for this first 12 miles section phase one South is
3 3.95 -- is \$3.95. This toll rate is actually slightly
4 lower than the \$5.40 average trip currently on Virginia's
5 I 185 Express Lanes, and below many other similar managed
6 lane projects around the United States, as posted on MDTA
7 that maryland.gov site. I ask to make this project move
8 forward and I thank you all for your time. That is the
9 end of my comments.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Sakata. We're now
11 going to go to our next caller, who is John Townsend.
12 After John will be Barry Catterton. John, again, after
13 the automated message, please state your name and spell
14 your name, provide your address and any organization that
15 you may be representing.

16 MR. TOWNSEND: Thank you, sir. I'm John Townsend,
17 Manager of Public and Government affairs with AAA
18 Mid-Atlantic 3513 Vista Verde Drive, Mitchellville,
19 Maryland. AAA is pleased to offer testimony on behalf of
20 the motoring public as well as more than one million
21 members that reside in Maryland and more than 62 million

1 members nationwide. AAA is the nation's oldest and
2 largest auto club, and allow me to say from the onset,
3 that as a matter of his national and regional policy
4 positions, AAA is gravely concerned about the
5 deteriorating conditions are the nation's roads and
6 bridges as well as the state of repair or disrepair of
7 roadways, highways and interstates, major arterials, and
8 bridges across Maryland and the National Capital Area. So
9 we support this project and we think that the toll rate
10 structure proposed by MDTA is very in keeping with what is
11 already happening in the Washington Metro area with the
12 Express Lanes in Northern Virginia. In fact, the previous
13 speaker alluded to what the typical toll rate would be,
14 and it would even be lower than that that we're seeing in
15 Northern Virginia at this juncture. Interestingly, about
16 50 percent of the people who live in a Washington Metro
17 area have already used the express lane concept. They're
18 very familiar to it -- with it. It is not foreign to most
19 residents in the National Capital Area, or to anyone who
20 traverses interstate 495, Interstate 95, Interstate 395 in
21 Northern Virginia, or who travels along the I- 66 Express

1 Lanes inside the Capital Beltway, or for that matter, if
2 you're in the Baltimore area along the I-95 Express Toll
3 Lanes or I-95 ETL, second all toll facility in Maryland.
4 The fact of the matter is that you're about to get a lot
5 of (indiscernible) today about exorbitant tolls, and they
6 will recite chapter and verse the unfortunate experience a
7 motorist when the I 66 express lanes and South of Beltway
8 debuted back in December 1 of 2017 when that first day,
9 there were tolls \$34.50 and \$40 the next day, but those
10 were anomalies and the difference is that motorists
11 (indiscernible) with certainty what the goals are before
12 they enter the (indiscernible). This is a much due
13 concept. We think the tolls are in line with the rest of
14 the phases in the Washington Metro area. And the last
15 thing is that motorists will not have to pay tolls if they
16 don't want to. Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Townsend. Our next
18 caller will be Barry Catterton. Mr. Catterton, again,
19 please state your name and spell your name, provide your
20 address and any organization that you may be representing.

21 MR. CATTERON: Good afternoon. My name is Barry

1 Catterton. It's B-A-R-R-Y, C-A-T-T-E-R-T-O-N. I am with
2 CES Consulting, an MDOT certified Minority and
3 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, small civil engineering
4 consulting company that serves Maryland, DC and Virginia.
5 We are headquartered at 23475 Rockhaven Way in Dulles,
6 Virginia. We have an office in Northville, Maryland, as
7 well as Virginia Beach, Virginia. We employ a total of
8 over 100 administrative professionals, construction
9 inspectors, civil engineers, and other support staff,
10 women and men of diverse backgrounds and talents. CES
11 consulting is a firm with a history of providing careers
12 for its team of employees, not just the job. The American
13 Legion bridge and I 270 upgrade will be a crucial -- will
14 be crucial for CES consulting and the many firms in our
15 industry to continue offering careers for folks of varying
16 backgrounds and educational levels in the region. There
17 is no better way to finance the six billion dollar
18 investment it will take to replace the American Legion
19 bridge and upgrade and I 270. The state does not have the
20 funds or the bonding capacity, so the only alternative
21 would be to raise the gas tax or other state taxes,

1 significantly raise existing tolls in Maryland so there is
2 more revenue to borrow against. Since 20 to 30 percent of
3 our traffic on our interstates is just passing through the
4 region, a significant share of the total revenue will be
5 paid by out of state residents for using these funds.
6 Payment would not payment would not be captured by out of
7 state residents passing through, relying on gas taxes or
8 other state taxes for funding. The proposed toll
9 structure is equitable, because our users of the new lanes
10 will pay the cost. Please move forward with this project
11 that is critical to our industry. Thank you for your time
12 today. This concludes my thoughts. Thank you very much.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thank you, Mr. Catterton.

14 We are going to go on to our next caller who is Jason
15 Stanford. Mr. Stanford, please state your name and spell
16 your name, provide your address and any organization that
17 you may be representing.

18 MR. STANFORD: Can you hear me?

19 HEARING OFFICER: Yes, we can hear you. Again, just
20 say your name, spell your name, provide your address and
21 any organization that you're representing.

1 MR. STANFORD: Sure. My name is Jason Stanford,
2 J-A-S-O-N, S-T-A-N-F-O-R-D, and my address is at
3 8260 Greensboro Drive, McLean, Virginia, and I represent
4 the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance. Can I go
5 ahead with my thoughts now?

6 HEARING OFFICER: Yes, you have three minutes.

7 MR. STANFORD: Thank you so much. As I just said, my
8 name is Jason Stanford. I'm the president of the Northern
9 Virginia transportation Alliance. For more than 30 years
10 the Alliance has been the visionary leader who Regional
11 Transportation solutions in the DC area that improve our
12 quality of life and promote economic prosperity.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to comment today on toll
14 rates. The Alliance strongly supports the proposal of the
15 board and the Maryland Department of Transportation. I've
16 heard a lot of hypotheticals recently about what the trip
17 costs, single occupancy drafters who are using the proposed
18 hot lanes, but I think it's very important that we not lose
19 sight of the entire purpose of having congestion management
20 lanes, which can provide a reliable option for important
21 trips 24 hours a day. Right now, that options is not exist

1 during certain times of day, including rush hour. The
2 reality is that these lanes will benefit everyday people who
3 have somewhere they need to be on time, whether it's picking
4 up their mother in law at the airport, getting there in time
5 to watch your child's soccer game, or even getting your
6 family the emergency care that they need. Sometimes, those
7 trips are priceless. At the same time, others who are not
8 paying the tolls will still benefit. Let's be clear, the
9 toll rate for cars with three or more people on them is
10 \$0.00. The toll rate for transit buses is \$0.00. The toll
11 rates for bike and pedestrian user of the near shared use
12 facility is \$0.00, and the toll rate for people who are
13 using the free lanes is \$0.00. The only people paying this
14 toll are single occupancy vehicle drivers who are choosing
15 to do so in order to guarantee a reliable trip. Having this
16 option is good for our region, our economy and our quality
17 of life. I urge you to move forward with this process, and
18 thank you for your time again today.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thank you, Mr. Stanford. At
20 this time, we do not have any additional callers who have
21 entered the speaker queue. I do want to just provide some

1 additional information for anyone out there who is
2 listening in watching the live stream or listening to the to
3 the audio. I want to provide the phone number and the
4 access code in case you do want to provide testimony. So
5 I'm going to do that right now if people want to grab a pen
6 or a pencil. So first, you need to dial the phone number
7 which is 855-925-2801. You will then be prompted to enter
8 your access code. That access code for this afternoon
9 session is 9150, and then the pound key. Again, the phone
10 number is 855-925-2801. The access code is 9150 and then
11 the pound key. You must listen to the entire welcome
12 message. Once the welcome message ends, you will hear "for
13 more options, press the star button," press star and then
14 you'll be prompted to hit the number three to enter the
15 speaker queue.

16 For anyone out there who maybe isn't sure if they want
17 to provide testimony but decides to do that, that is the way
18 you would enter the speaker queue and then I would bring you
19 on to provide your testimony. Just as a couple other
20 reminders, this session of this call in public hearing will
21 take place from two to four, so we'll be here until four

1 o'clock. There is an evening session that will take place
2 from six o'clock to eight o'clock tonight. You have plenty
3 of time to put together some thoughts and share them with us
4 and the board members who are listening. At this time, it is
5 2:24 p.m. We are going to go into recess until 2:40 p.m.
6 However, if we do get someone who calls in, we will come back
7 immediately so we will get our board members back on the
8 screen and we will bring that person on to provide their
9 testimony, but if we do not get anyone I will come back at
10 2:40 to provide an update. At this point, we are in recess.

11 [RECESS]

12 HEARING OFFICER: It is 2:29 p.m. We are going to go
13 to that person. Wait until we get our board members up on
14 the screen. Okay, there we go. I see everyone. We are
15 going to go back to our caller. Our first caller here is
16 Mike Higgins. Mr. Higgins after the automated message,
17 please state your name, spell your name, provide your
18 address and any organization that you may be representing.

19 MR. HIGGINS: Good afternoon, I'm Mike Higgins, the
20 general manager for Concrete General, a (indiscernible)
21 based heavy highway contractor. We work with MDOT SHA and

1 MDTA, building new roadways and bridges and also provide
2 crews to maintain our existing road and bridge
3 infrastructure. I'm also the chairman for the Maryland
4 transportation builders and materials Association, and a
5 board member for the Maryland association of general
6 contractors. Both of these associations represent
7 construction materials supply firms for the transportation
8 and construction industries here in Maryland. Ourselves,
9 Concrete General, we have over 200 vehicle -- trucks that
10 are registered in Maryland with over 100 of these vehicles
11 having and currently using E-ZPasses. We depend on these
12 vehicles to perform our work, and our use of E-ZPass
13 tollways and roads in Maryland has decreased our travel
14 time, which then allows recruits to spend more time putting
15 work in place, and not just getting to and from work. The
16 variable pricing already used on the ICC Maryland 200 and
17 use for the proposed hot lane is a proven way to maximize
18 the efficiency of the network. It's also very dependent on
19 this level of demand and the price paid when people enter
20 the system will not change on that second segment if traffic
21 picks up while in the hot lane, so that every consumer

1 driver can make their own choice to either utilize the hot
2 lanes based on posted pricing at that time or to remain in
3 the GP lanes. The hot lanes will allow more people to move
4 through the corridors during peak hours, shifting traffic
5 from overcrowded local streets during the morning and
6 evening rush hours, and improving pedestrian safety in local
7 areas. The improved speed for the new (indiscernible) lanes
8 will provide -- will also cut down on fuel consumption.
9 When our vehicles are moving at 45 miles an hour or more,
10 they use a lot less fuel and pollute less than if they are
11 stuck idling or crawling in 10 mile an hour stop and go
12 conditions. My hope is this project proceeds as planned,
13 and I want to thank you for your time today.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thank you, Mr. Higgins. Again,
15 at this point, we do not have any other callers who have
16 entered the speaker queue, but we have -- we do have a bunch
17 of people who have registered, but again, our session is
18 from two to four so at any point, they may enter the
19 speaker queue if they choose to provide that testimony, but
20 right now it is 2:32 p.m. We are going to go back into
21 recess. I'm going to come back on at 2:50 -- 2-5-0 unless

1 we get another caller, and then I'll come back immediately
2 to take their testimony. Right now it's 2:32 and we are in
3 recess.

4 [RECESS]

5 HEARING OFFICER: Okay, welcome back. It is 2:50 p.m.
6 We still do not have any callers who have entered the
7 speaker queue, but I said I would come back right now and
8 provide an update. We will remain in recess until we get
9 a caller who comes in again. This session will be open
10 until four o'clock. For anyone who is listening and would
11 like to provide testimony, you can do that by calling the
12 following phone number 855-925-2801 and then entering the
13 access code which is 9150 and then the pound sign. You must
14 listen to the entire welcome message, then you will be
15 prompted to press the star button and then the number three.
16 Again, the phone number is 855-925-2801 the access code is
17 9150. So we will remain in recess. I will come back on at
18 3:15 to provide an update. Again, if we get any callers we
19 will come back on immediately, we'll bring the board members
20 back on and we will hear that person's testimony. Right
21 now, it is 2:51 and we are in recess.

1 [RECESS]

2 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Hello, everyone. It is 3:15
3 p.m. We have not had anyone come in to the speaker's queue
4 so we are going to remain in recess. We will stay in recess
5 until 3:40. We will go to 3:40 and again, if we get anyone
6 who enters the speaker queue, we will come right back and
7 take their testimony. As a reminder, we will have another
8 session tonight from six o'clock to eight o'clock. If
9 anyone would like to testify during that time, you just go
10 to the MDTA website and you will be able to sign up or
11 register for that testimony. Right now, we are going to
12 remain in recess until 3:40. Thank you very much.

13 [RECESS]

14 HEARING OFFICER: I said I would come back on at
15 3:40. We do not have any callers who have entered the
16 speaker queue, but I did want to provide the instructions on
17 how to get into the speaker queue just in case there are
18 still people out there who are trying and just maybe need a
19 little help in terms of the instructions. So if you would
20 like to provide testimony, you call the phone number 855-
21 925-2801. I'll repeat that. Again, it's 855-925-2801. You

1 will then need to enter the access code. The access code is
2 9150 and then the pound key. 9150, pound. Once you do that,
3 you must listen to the entire welcome message. That's
4 important. You have to get to the end of that welcome
5 message, and then once you do get to the end of the welcome
6 message, you'll be prompted the star button and then
7 prompted hit the three button. Again, you must listen to
8 the entire welcome message. So we're still hopeful that
9 we'll get a couple callers here before we wrap up at four
10 o'clock. Hopefully, those instructions will help anyone who
11 is trying to get in. I will come back on at 3:45 to provide
12 one final update. Again I'll come back immediately if we
13 get any callers so right now, it is 3:31 and we are in
14 recess. Thank you.

15 [RECESS]

16 HEARING OFFICER: Welcome back. It is 3:45 p.m. We
17 do have a caller who has entered speaker queue, so we are
18 going to go to that person right now. The person who
19 entered the speaker queue is Deborah Koss from the phone
20 number ending 7767. A couple reminders before I ask Deborah
21 to introduce herself, you will have three minutes to provide

1 your testimony. There will be a tone that sounds when there
2 is 30 seconds left, as well as a tone that sounds when
3 there's 10 seconds left. So Deborah, after the automated
4 message, please state your name, spell your name, provide
5 your address and any organization that you may be
6 representing.

7 MS. KOSS: My name is Deborah. My last name is
8 spelled K, like kitchen, O, S like Sam, S again. 11 Surry,
9 S-U-R-R-Y, Court in Rockville, Maryland. I'm calling in to
10 oppose the toll road project. I don't think there should be
11 any toll roads at all. I think it's a bad project and bad
12 for environment and bad for our planet.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Okay, is there anything else you
14 want to share or is that the end of your comment?

15 MS. KOSS: That's the end.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We appreciate you taking
17 the time to call in and let us know.

18 MS. KOSS: Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER: You're welcome. So right now, it is
20 3:46 p.m. This hearing session will continue until four
21 o'clock. So there is 14 minutes left in this session.

1 There is a second session tonight that will run from six
2 o'clock to eight o'clock p.m. so if anyone is interested in
3 providing testimony, there are a couple ways that you can do
4 that, and I'm going to provide that information for you
5 right now. So for the next 14 minutes, if you're listening
6 and you've decided you do want to call in and provide some
7 testimony, you need to call the phone number 855-925-2801.
8 You will then hit the access code 9150, and then the pound
9 sign. Again, the phone number is 855-925-2801 and then, the
10 access code is 9150 and then hit the pound sign. You will
11 then need to listen to the entire welcome message. Once
12 that welcome message ends, you will be prompted at the start
13 button and then prompted to hit the number three, and then
14 that will get you into the speaker queue. If you're
15 interested in providing testimony during the six o'clock to
16 eight o'clock session, you need to go to the MDTA website in
17 order to pre-register. That website is
18 [MDTA.maryland.gov/alb270tollsetting](https://mdta.maryland.gov/alb270tollsetting). So you can go there
19 now, you can sign up to provide testimony and then call back
20 in anytime between six and eight, and we will get you on to
21 provide your comments. Right now, it is 3:48 p.m. We are

1 going to be in recess until four o'clock when this session
2 ends. If we do get a caller between now and four o'clock,
3 we will come back on and allow that person to provide their
4 testimony. So right now, at 3:48, we are in recess.

5 [RECESS]

6 HEARING OFFICER: Okay, welcome back. Right now, it
7 is 3:56 and we do have someone who has entered the speaker
8 queue looking to provide testimony so we're going to go to
9 that person right now. Before I introduce this person, I
10 do want to remind Mr. Richard Goldestein that we are -- you
11 will have three minutes to provide your testimony, and you
12 will hear a tone when there's 30 seconds remaining and 10
13 seconds remaining. So our next speaker will be Richard
14 Goldestein. After the automated message, Mr. Goldestein,
15 please state your name and spell your name, provide your
16 address and anywhere organization that you may be
17 representing.

18 MR. GOLDSTEIN: My name is Richard Goldestein. Last
19 name is spelled G-O-L-D-E-S-T-E-I-N. I live at 11 Surry
20 Court, Rockville, Maryland, (indiscernible) and I'm calling
21 to voice opposition to the 70 project. I feel that it will

1 not alleviate congestion. It will add to the congestion
2 during the construction period and also when it's completed.
3 I don't feel that it's a viable solution. Also, I feel that
4 it's going to have an environmental impact and impact on
5 people that live close to the planned expansion, and whose
6 homes might be impacted by construction. That's the end of
7 my testimony.

8 HEARING OFFICER: We thank you for your comments and
9 at this point, we do not have any more individuals in the
10 speaker queue. It is 3:58. This hearing does end in two
11 minutes at four o'clock. Again, there's an evening session
12 from six to eight, but just in case someone does come on in
13 these next two minutes, we are going to stay on. I am going
14 to just go take a brief recess. I will go off camera and I
15 will come back on at four unless we do have someone who has
16 entered the speaker's queue, and then we'll come back on in
17 order to allow that person to provide their testimony.
18 Right now, at 3:58, we are in recess, and thank you and
19 we'll be back in a minute or two.

20 [RECESS]

21 HEARING OFFICER: Okay, welcome back. It is, right

1 now, four o'clock p.m. This concludes our afternoon call-in
2 session. At six o'clock, it'll run from six to eight
3 tonight and as a reminder, the public comment period will
4 remain open until five o'clock p.m. on August 12th. I want
5 to thank all the callers who took the time to call in. I
6 thank the board members and the Executive Director for
7 listening to all the testimony, and that concludes this
8 testimony session and we'll be back at six o'clock tonight.
9 Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)
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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Vivian Saxe, hereby certify that I transcribed from audio file the proceedings to the best of my ability in the foregoing-entitled matter; and I further certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct transcript of the audio files produced.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have subscribed my name on July 28, 2021.

Vivian Saxe

Vivian Saxe

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