



Office of the Mayor

The City of

March 12, 2013

Andrew M. Fellows, Mayor
5807 Bryn Mawr Road
College Park, MD 20740

Dear Mayor Fellows:

I am writing to support the endeavor of College Park, MD to bring a solar transportation network (Jpods) to the area. As you are already aware, Morgantown has had a Personal Rapid Transit system in place since 1975, which connects the three campuses of West Virginia University, as well as the downtown area. Some benefits of the system include, but are not limited to:

- ↔ It has proven to be a reliable system of automated transit that is relatively inexpensive to operate.
- ↔ It has offered on-time service rates far better than the bus system it replaced, boasting a 98% reliability and availability rating
- ↔ It has eliminated much of the gridlock of traffic which existed in the hub of downtown Morgantown.
- ↔ It has proven to be safe, with no serious injuries reported since the operation began in 1975.
- ↔ Approximately 16,000 riders take advantage of the system on a daily basis.

There have been several proposals to extend the line on both ends of the system, which could take place in the near future. Since the Morgantown PRT operates chiefly as a student-mover, it runs primarily during class days. During Fall and Spring semesters, hours of operation are from 6:30 a.m. - 10:15 p.m. weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Summer hours are 6:15 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The system is closed on Sundays year round, as well as during Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring breaks.

A system such as this would be a great asset to your City, and I wish you well in your endeavor!

Jim Manilla, Mayor
City of Morgantown