

1/15/10

Congresswoman Schwartz,

I want to express my deepest concern about the proposed parking garage at the Jenkintown-Wyncote SEPTA station. This project is not only completely unnecessary, but is also a gross misuse of public tax revenue. I am also angered to know that alternatives, such as optimized Lansdale-Doylestown line service, extended Warminster line service, or even restored Newtown line service, were never considered by SEPTA or brought up by local officials. Instead, this parking garage, which ends up denying commuters Regional Rail services in their local towns, is being promoted and pushed onto neighborhoods that have seen no population growth, and that have no desire to see their town turned into a transportation center. Commuters from areas of Bucks County, which have seen massive population growth in recent years, are being encouraged to instead drive to Jenkintown and Cheltenham, and park at the Jenkintown-Wyncote station.

The parking garage project at Jenkintown-Wyncote station must be put on hold while the alternatives are studied. This parking garage would not only ruin two quiet, residential neighborhoods, but may also threaten service seen on the rest of the lines that branch off from Jenkintown-Wyncote. All this parking garage does is encourage riders from the Warminster, West Trenton, and Lansdale-Doylestown lines to stop using their local stations and drive to Jenkintown-Wyncote. Congresswoman, this defeats the purpose of local public transportation- the alternatives, such as restoring service to the Newtown line, must be studied.

Thank you for your time,
Thomas Golanoski
13th District, Montgomery County