



June 18, 2012

Mr. Donald A. Halligan, Director
Office of Planning and Capital Programming
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: Caroline County Transportation Priority Projects

Dear Mr. Halligan:

The Commissioners for the Town of Marydel are in full support of the Caroline County submittal to the Maryland Department of Transportation the following priority capital projects:

Replacement of Dover Bridge on MD 331

The current bridge is nearly 80 years old and has been rated as functionally obsolete. Dover Bridge serves as a major thoroughfare between Southern Caroline and Northern Dorchester Counties and Talbot County. The bridge has well documented mechanical problems which negatively affect emergency and commercial services between the counties. When the bridge becomes stuck in the open position, it creates a delay for commuters and a lengthy, very dangerous detour for emergency vehicles. Dover Bridge also does not meet National Highway Standard, which require 12 foot lanes. Dover Bridge has only 10 foot lanes, which makes it difficult for large vehicles, trucks, and emergency vehicles to safely pass. The replacement of the bridge is consistent with the transportation element of the 2010 Caroline County Comprehensive Plan.

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OFFICE OF PLANNING &
CAPITAL PROGRAMMING

Dualization of Route 404

Maryland Route 404 is the major cross corridor in the county that carries traffic between State Route 50 and Delaware State Route 13. Both route 50 and 13 are dual lane corridors that carry high volumes of traffic to large population centers. Route 404 is used to connect these urban centers to beaches on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Delaware. The expansion of this roadway is consistent with the transportation element of the 2010 Caroline County Comprehensive Plan.

The replacement of Dover Bridge and the dualization of Route 404 address several of the goals of the Maryland Transportation Plan, including Quality of Service, Safety and Security, Connectivity to Daily Life and Environmental Stewardship.

The Commissioners of Marydel recognize that transportation funds are limited and the Department must carefully weigh the priority projects of each jurisdiction. However, both of the projects Caroline County has identified have been on the County's priority list for years and have significant safety impacts. Therefore, we respectfully ask that you support the County's request for the replacement of the Dover Bridge on MD 331 between Caroline and Talbot County and the full dualization of Route 404. These improvements will greatly benefit the state transit system as well as enhance the transportation of Caroline County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Rowe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie Rowe
President, Marydel Commission

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