

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
203 South Fourth Street - Courthouse - Room 207, Oakland, Maryland 21550
www.garrettcounty.org · countycommissioners@garrettcounty.org
301-334-8970 301-895-3188 FAX 301-334-5000

Board of Commissioners

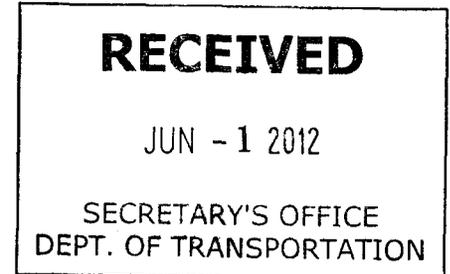
Gregan T. Crawford
Robert G. Galto
James M. Raley

County Administrator

R. Lamont Pagenhardt
County Attorney
Gorman E. Getty III

May 24, 2012

Beverly K. Swain-Staley, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076



Dear Madam Secretary:

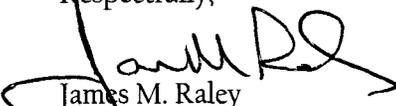
This letter is written to provide an overview of the transportation priorities established by the Board of Garrett County Commissioners relating to Maryland Departmental of Transportation's major capital improvements for primary and secondary development programs as well as safety and enhancement programs in the Consolidated Transportation Plan. In keeping with the guidance offered to local jurisdictions in a letter issued by Donald Halligan, Director of the Office of Planning and Capital Programming, this years list of priority projects has been pared down in recognition of the funding challenges MDOT is faced with. Our list has been developed in a priority fashion and addresses both capital projects as well as highway safety related issues. Each of these issues will be discussed during the Fall CTP tour in Garrett County.

The Board has once again confirmed its priority to identify the US 219 North project as the number one major capital transportation project for Garrett County. The US 219 North project is Maryland's northern link in the North/South Appalachian Corridor and the Board believes this corridor will provide an enhanced opportunity for economic growth in our region and enhance the quality of service for private vehicle users as well as freight and commercial travel. The Oakland Bypass continues to be the County's second highest priority project for capital construction projects within our jurisdiction. This project is intended to enhance traffic operations and safety within the Town of Oakland and improve connectivity for daily life within the southern region of the County.

We have attached our condensed list of Priority Projects with the required supporting information set forth in Chapter 725 of the 2010 Laws of Maryland.

Thank you for considering our transportation priorities in Garrett County and we look forward to the upcoming CTP Tour.

Respectfully,


James M. Raley
Chairman

cc: Senator George Edwards
Delegate Wendell Beitzel
Donald Halligan, Director
Anthony Crawford, District Engineer

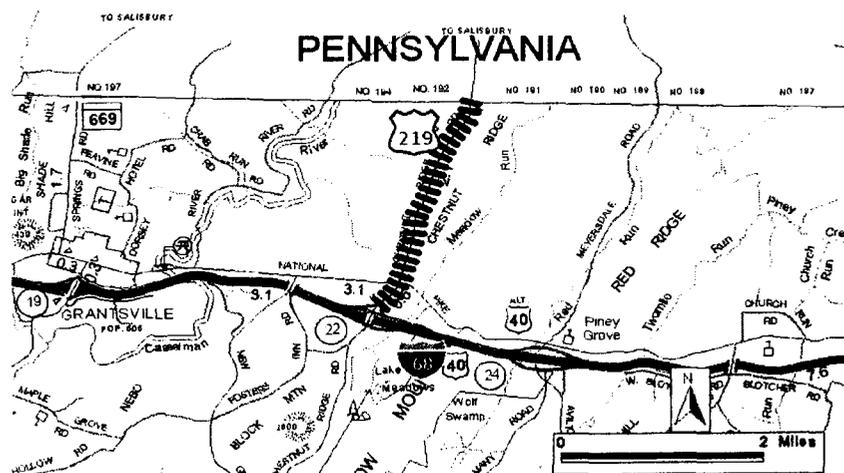


Priority Capital Projects for Garrett County

Secretary's 2012 Annual Tour MD Department of Transportation

1. Garrett County ranks the US 219 North, Chestnut Ridge Road project as our highest priority. The County encourages completion of project planning and moving forward with design and construction to complete Garrett County's link to the North/South Appalachian Corridor.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION: Improvements along the US 219 North Corridor would enhance accessibility and promote economic development in the Appalachian Region. The project is a part of a larger transportation system that would improve the quality of service by reducing travel time and improve reliability for private vehicle users as well as freight and commercial users in the Appalachian Region.



DESCRIPTION: Study to reconstruct/relocate US 219 from I-68 to the Pennsylvania State Line (2.54 miles). This represents Maryland's portion of a larger study of US 219 from the Meyersdale Bypass in Pennsylvania to I-68 in Maryland.

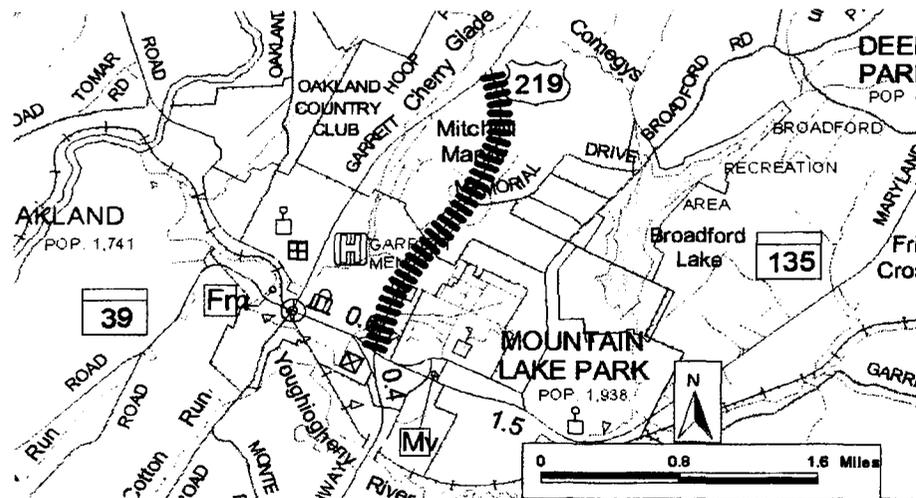
LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY: The Garrett County Comprehensive Plan identifies the US 219 North Study as a joint planning study between the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania, investigating options to improve US 219 to provide better access from I-68 in Maryland to the Pennsylvania Turnpike via Meyersdale, Pennsylvania. Most of the corridor is in Pennsylvania; the Maryland portion of the project from I-68 north to the state line is 2.54 miles long.

This project is part of a broader effort to improve the highway links between Pennsylvania and points north and Appalachian Development Highway System Corridor H; upgrade north-south access for residents, businesses and visitors; and provide opportunities for improving economic development in this

region of Appalachia. The main link between I-68 and Corridor H would follow the US-220 corridor south of Cumberland. The County supports the effort to improve the US 220 corridor and the US 219 north corridor (north of I-68 only) as the primary link between Pennsylvania and Corridor H. The project fully supports the Plan's transportation goal to plan and build a balanced, efficient transportation system to meet the mobility needs of residents and businesses and to support the County's growth as a vacation destination.

2. Garrett County encourages progress on finalizing design, acquisition and construction of the US 219 Relocated, Oakland By-Pass.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION: Existing US 219 through Oakland experiences congestion because of the frequency of entrances and intersections along with restricted roadway width. The bypass will divert through traffic including heavy trucks from downtown Oakland, improving safety and reducing congestion.



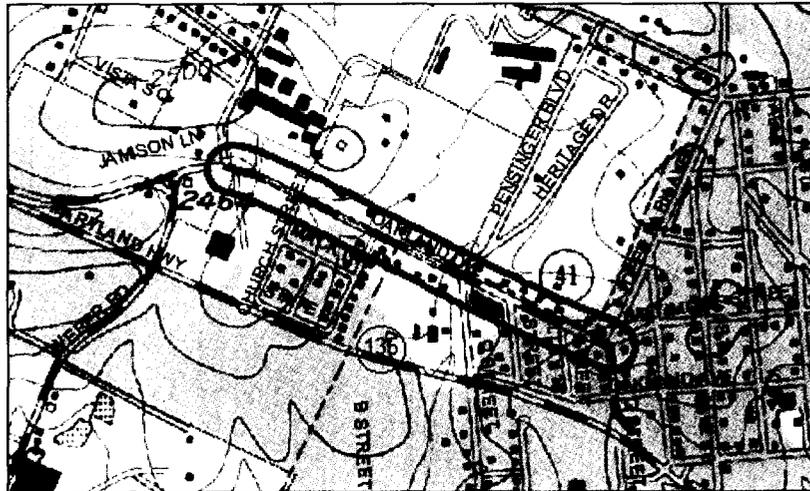
DESCRIPTION: Relocate US 219 from north of Oakland to MD 135 (2.40 miles). Sidewalks will be included where appropriate and shoulders will accommodate pedestrians to open sections. Shoulders and wide curb lanes will accommodate bicycles.

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY: The Garrett County Comprehensive Plan identifies the US 219 Relocated, Oakland By Pass as a 2.4 mile roadway that will relocate US 219 to the east from north of Oakland to MD 135. This project was identified in the 1995 Garrett County Comprehensive Plan and is supported by Garrett County. The intent of the project is to divert through traffic and truck traffic from downtown Oakland. The project fully supports the local Plan's transportation goal to plan and build a balanced, efficient transportation system to meet the mobility needs of the residents and businesses and to support the County's growth as a vacation destination.

Community Safety and Enhancements

3. Oakland Drive; MD 826 A to Deer Park Avenue; Sidewalk Project / Streetscape

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION: Oakland Drive is frequently used by pedestrians, especially students, as a means of connectivity between Southern High School and surrounding retail stores and the residential community in nearby Mtn. Lake Park. The existing roadway is characterized by a narrow cartway with road ditching located immediately adjacent to the edge of the cartway forcing pedestrians to use the vehicle travel portion of the roadway. The sidewalk / streetscape project (all of which is in a PFA) will provide an elevated walking surface (elevated by curb) adjacent to the existing cartway providing an improved safety facility for pedestrians and increase access to schools and services and support multimodal transportation.



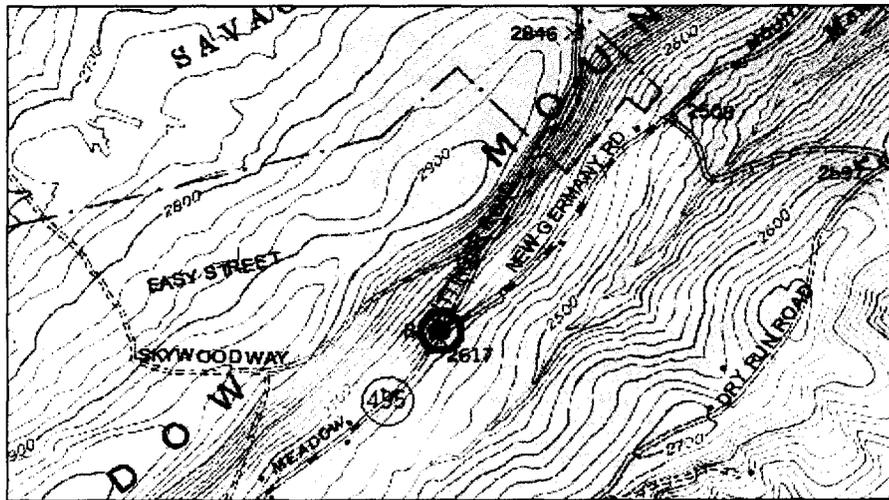
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Enhancements

- MD 495 and New Germany Road intersection; geometric upgrades and establish perpendicular intersection (SHA / County partnership).

PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION: The existing MD 495 and New Germany Road intersection is orientated at an acute angle making site visibility very restricted when entering from New Germany Road. The geometric upgrades will provide enhanced site distance, improving safety and reducing opportunity for collisions for motorized and non-motorized travelers.



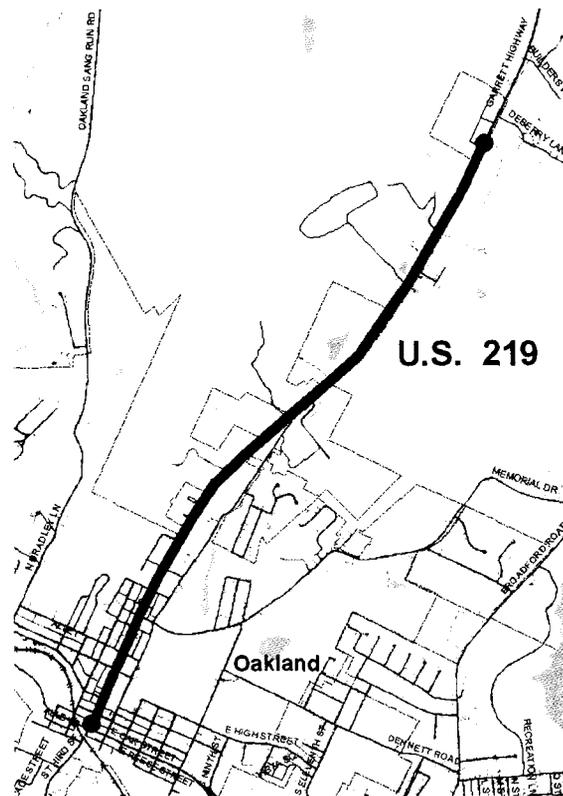
DESCRIPTION: Redesign of intersection is intended to provide a perpendicular intersection of roads with improved site distance in both directions. The project will necessitate exchange of property currently owned by the Department of Natural Resources and Garrett County. The project is intended to be a SHA/ County partnership.

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY: The Garrett County Comprehensive Plan identifies the intersection of MD 495 at New Germany Road as a candidate for realignment and improved geometric design. The project fully supports the Plan's transportation goal to plan and build a balanced, efficient transportation system that meets the needs of residents and supports the County's growth as a vacation destination and supports the objective of improving safety.

Resurface / Rehabilitate

5. US 219 Resurfacing from Oak Street to Lowes Home Store entrance

PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION: The existing surface of US 219 between Oak Street and the Lowes Home Store has uneven surfaces and has not been overlayed since the installation of the Wal-Mart traffic signals. The project will enhance the movement of freight and goods as well as preserve the integrity of the US 219 corridor through Oakland.

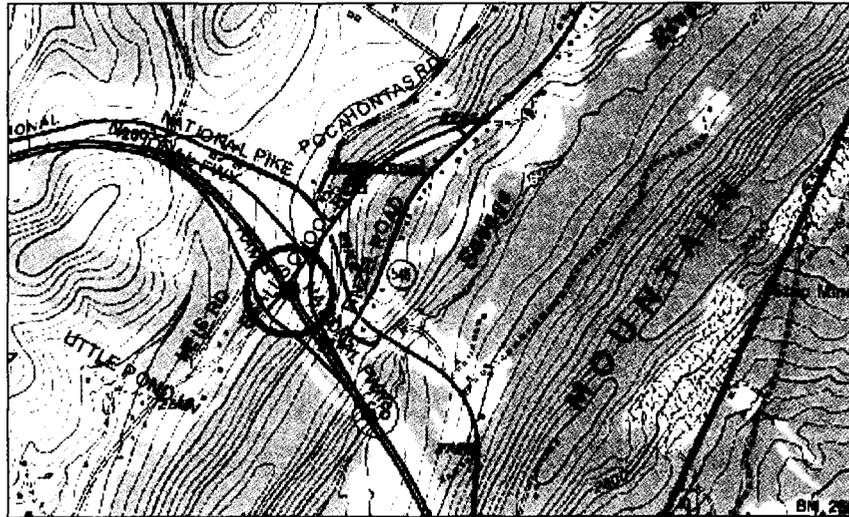


DESCRIPTION: Resurface US 219 between Oak Street and Lowes Home Store (approx. 2.4 miles). Intent of project is to provide enhanced connectivity through town and ensure system preservation.

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY: This system preservation project will support the objectives identified in the Plan to preserve roadway capacity and improve safety.

6. MD 546 Bridge over I-68 needs deck replacement

PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION: Winter abrasives applied to the MD 546 roadway have deteriorated the bridge surface and perhaps the integrity of the decking supporting the surfaces on the MD 546 Bridge over I-68. SHA Structures Office were to evaluate the decking to determine the extent of the deterioration. The project would improve safety for private vehicle users and ensure System Preservation.



DESCRIPTION: Evaluate the bridge decking and determine need for replacing the deck, similar to other bridge projects over I-68 that have been completed in previous fiscal years.

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Mass Transit

7. Continued funding availability for multimodal transportation facilities to enhance connectivity for non-motorized travelers and to promote a more complete and integrated pedestrian and bicycling trail network within Garrett County.
8. Continued funding for Garrett Bus System. Maintenance of current funding levels for this public transportation system is essential and increased funding to cover escalating operating costs would be beneficial for this community service.

Monty Pagenhardt

From: John Nelson
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 2:32 PM
To: Jim Raley; Gregan Crawford; Bob Gatto
Cc: Monty Pagenhardt; Jay Moyer; Carol Riley-Alexander
Subject: FW: Priority Capital Projects for GC Secretary's 2012 Annual Tour 5-23-12
Attachments: Priority Capital Projects for GC Secretary's 2012 Annual Tour 5-23-12.doc

Attached is the finalized list of MDOT projects that will be attached to the Priority Letter that you all signed yesterday. I added the resurfacing of 219 through town and the MD 546 bridge over I 68 to the "Resurface/Rehabilitation" projects and further funding for trails and Garrett Bus system under "Mass Transit". Please let me know if there are any edits.

John

From: Debbe Owston
Sent: Friday, May 25, 2012 12:36 PM
To: John Nelson
Subject: Priority Capital Projects for GC Secretary's 2012 Annual Tour 5-23-12

John –

Here is the final document for your review.

Thanks
Debbe

This message and any files transmitted with it are intended only for the individual(s) or entity named. If you are not the intended individual(s) or entity named you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or reliance upon its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please notify the sender, delete the original, and destroy all copies. Email transmissions cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. Garrett County Government therefore does not accept any liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of email transmission.

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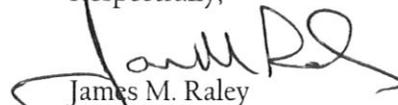
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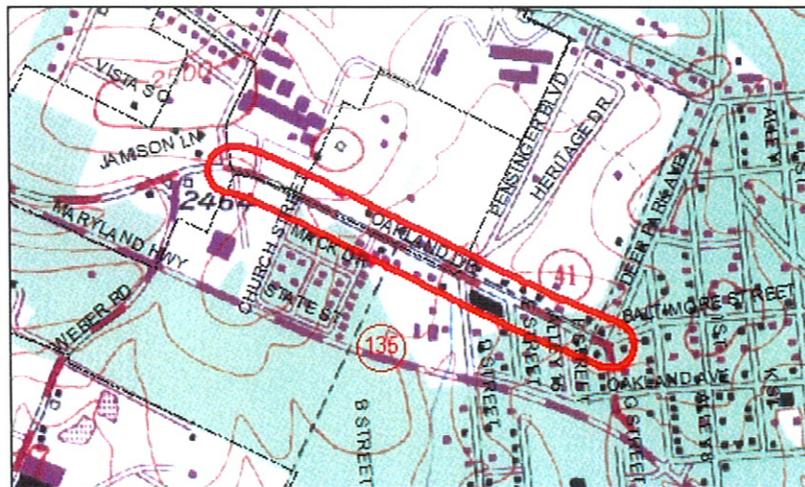
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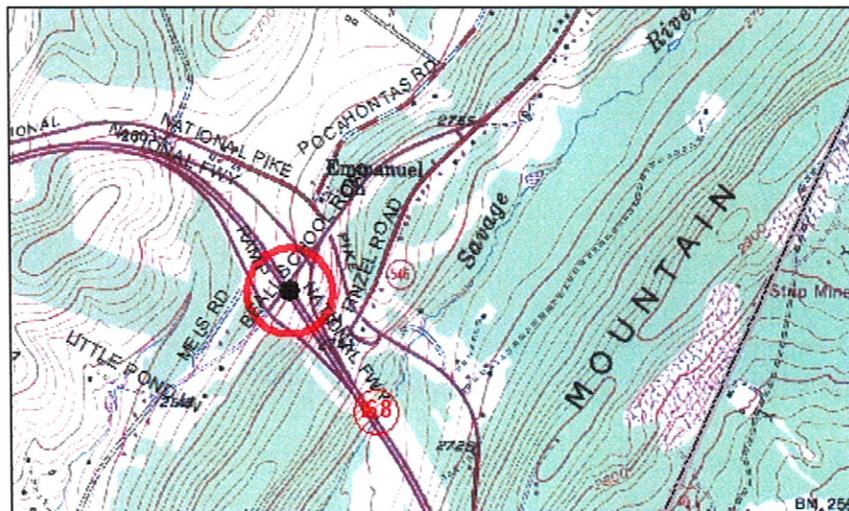


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