



Washington County

M A R Y L A N D

DIVISION OF
ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
PLAN REVIEW & PERMITTING | ENGINEERING | CONSTRUCTION

July 15, 2015



The Honorable Secretary Pete K. Rahn
State of Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

**RE: 2015 MDOT Tour Meeting
Board of County Commissioner Priorities**

Dear Secretary Rahn:

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and staff look forward to your visit October 8, 2015. The Transportation Priorities so very important to Washington County are included below.

- 1. Interstate 81 Widening:** The economic welfare of our County relies upon our interstates. Interstate 81 was studied and approved for a third lane over ten years ago. The 2014 State Highway Mobility Report speaks to the significance of commercial routes in Maryland. With over 62,000 vehicles, 30% truck traffic, and two lanes, Interstate 81 has become a liability rather than an asset. A plan to improve Interstate 81 beyond the first exit ramp is our top priority for safety and commerce. A cost effective widening will pay dividends in terms of safety, customers, visitors, and employers.
- 2. Interstate 70 and Maryland 65 Interchange Improvements:** Over 80,000 vehicles cross this interchange daily; that number is expected to grow substantially with approved development plans for a major retail anchor. Washington County has entered an Access Management Plan with the SHA and the City of Hagerstown for Maryland 65. A full cloverleaf interchange is required to serve approved and anticipated development.
- 3. Professional Boulevard Corridor:** This new road and bridge will serve many purposes. Among those are to connect two of the County's busiest roadways, to reduce emergency vehicle travel times by several minutes, to reduce traffic on state routes US 40 and MD 64, to improve access to Hagerstown Community College and Meritus Medical Center, and to serve access to fertile economic ground in Mt. Aetna Technology Park. The County is completing bridge and corridor design with the \$1.12 Million grant. Our request for \$5.5M will complete the bridge over Antietam Creek and connect major corridors.

80 West Baltimore Street | Hagerstown, MD 21740 | P: 240.313.2460 | Hearing Impaired: 7-1-1

WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET

5. Sidewalks: The County would like to thank MDOT and SHA for the opportunity to participate in the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Our SHA district has been particularly supportive of these and other sidewalk initiatives.

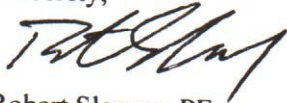
7. Railroad Crossings: As the home of the "Hub City", the County maintains 37 rail crossings outside the City of Hagerstown alone. All County crossings are being brought up to current standards, in accordance with a detailed study completed this year. The County seeks MDOT support for additional safety improvements and select at grade crossings.

8. Transit Program: The public demand for transit service and route expansion continues. The County added six (6) new shelters for improved service this year; more will be installed throughout the County and in the City of Hagerstown. Additional operational funds would serve to expand transit in accordance with the Transit Development Plan. Service to Boonsboro and other municipalities in the County are priority. Additional operational funding would support staffing for the transit center station in downtown Hagerstown.

9. Aviation Program: The existing air traffic control tower at Hagerstown Regional Airport has been in operation since 1972; the existing 50 foot tower was used in Florida previously. MDOT's support for a potential private-public partnership to fund a new tower is essential. The County will also benefit from MDOT support for property acquisition to expand the airport footprint and expand economic opportunities. The County seeks continued funding assistance for airport marketing in accord with the Hagerstown Regional Airport Marketing Plan.

In closing, Washington County is excited to begin upon these new opportunities for improvement. The County would also like to thank you and your staff for the support of Sidewalk, Road, and Railroad improvements already underway with your support.

Sincerely,



Robert Slocum, PE
Director, Engineering & Construction Management

- c:
- Board of County Commissioners
 - Greg Murray, County Administrator
 - Sarah Sprecher, Assistant County Administrator
 - Jim Sterling, Director - DPW
 - Steve Goodrich, Director - Planning
 - Rodney Tissue, City of Hagerstown Engineering
 - Anthony Crawford, SHA
 - Senator George C. Edwards, District 1
 - Delegate Michael W. McKay, District 1C
 - Senator Andrew A. Serafini, District 2
 - Delegate Neil Parrott, District 2A
 - Delegate Brett R. Wilson, District 2B
 - Delegate William J. Wivell, District 2A
 - Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, U.S. Senate
 - Senator Benjamin Cardin, U.S. Senate
 - Congressman John Delaney, U.S. Congress - 6th District