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March 7, 2016

The Honorable Pete K. Rahn
Secretary of Transportation
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076



RE: Harford County Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Rahn:

Harford County has established a list of transportation priorities that focuses on immediate projects. These projects are of various modes and are consistent with previous requests, long-term goals of the Maryland Transportation Plan, and regional and local plans. The needs of the County's three municipalities are reflected in these priority projects.

A total of 16 projects are listed and prioritized. Separately, projects are ranked according to their importance to the County's transportation network and in which order we request funding from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). This list reflects an update of the County's previous FY 2016 Priority Letter dated March 2, 2015. Projects represent the highest priorities based on four specific categories.

Capacity

Roadway improvements are important for the reduction of congestion. Congested corridors lead to higher accident rates, reduce the efficiency of the road network and negatively impact the economy. Strategic investment in modern transportation facilities produces many long term benefits. These benefits include traffic congestion relief, improved access to goods and services, better system reliability, increased economic development and improved air quality. Our specific Capacity projects are listed below:

- *MD 22 @ Prospect Mill Road – MD 22 @ Thomas Run Road/Schucks Road:* This improvement adds a second eastbound travel lane and a second westbound travel lane from west of Prospect Mill Road to east of Thomas Run Road/Schucks Road.
- *MD 24 Northbound Lane:* This proposal is to construct a third northbound travel lane on MD 24 from south of Singer Road to north of Plumtree Road.

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- *US 1 Bypass @ MD 24 Interchange:* Harford County proposes that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and to construct a second left turn lane onto MD 24 from US 1 Bypass – as identified in the 2015 Business US 1/MD 22 Multimodal Corridor Study Final Report.
- *MD 543 @ I-95 Southbound Ramp:* Improvements to this interchange includes restriping northbound MD 543 to provide a second left turn lane with a receiving lane on the I-95 southbound ramp.
- *MD 22 Eastbound HOV Lane:* This roadway improvement converts the existing shoulder between MD 132 and the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) gate to handle general purpose traffic while restricting the left lane to high-occupancy vehicles (HOV) only. This lane configuration would occur Monday through Friday during the AM peak between the hours of 5:00 AM and 9:00 AM only.

Safety/Operations

Harford County is committed to enhancing the safety and operations on our roadways and intersections. The benefit of improved safety and operations included better flow of traffic, reduced crashes, and fewer vehicle conflicts. Our specific Safety/Operations projects are listed below:

- *MD 159 @ Old Philadelphia Road Roundabout:* Improving access to and from the Perryman Peninsula has been studied for several years. This improvement constructs a roundabout at this intersection.
- *MD 23 @ Grafton Shop Road Roundabout:* Numerous crashes have occurred at this intersection over the years. Therefore, Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design and construct a roundabout to improve the overall safety at this intersection.
- *MD 22 Median:* Harford County requests that MDOT program funding the design and construction of a raised curb along the median on MD 22 from Moores Mill Road to Brierhill Drive.
- *MD 7 @ Stepney Road Roundabout:* Harford County recommends that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct a roundabout at this intersection as roundabouts have been and are being constructed at other unsignalized intersections along this corridor.

- *Business US 1/MD 22 Access Management:* Consolidating access points and restricting turn movements along the Business US 1/MD 22 corridor can improve the movement of traffic, improve safety, and reduce vehicle conflict points.
- *MD 23 @ MD 146/Madonna Road Roundabout:* Harford County requests that MDOT program funding to acquire right-of-way, design, and construct a roundabout at this intersection.

Transit

Transit ridership can be increased when citizens have safe and convenient access and when wait times are reduced. Improving Park-and-Ride facilities are essential for encouraging shifts to transit, which reduces congestion and air pollution. Our specific Transit projects are listed below:

- *MD 22 Eastbound Queue Jump Lane:* This improvement is located at the MD 22 @ MD 543 intersection and includes widening and extending the eastbound MD 22 merge lane east of the intersection.
- *Aberdeen Train Station (Parking):* Additional parking at the Aberdeen Train Station has been anticipated for several years. This improvement includes roadway improvements on East Bel Air Avenue and APG Road.

Bicycle/Pedestrian/Shared Use Path

Non-motorized connections enhance mobility and reduce congestion. Connecting neighborhoods and local destinations with sidewalks and pathways reduces vehicle miles traveled, alleviates congestion, improves safety and promotes active lifestyles. Our specific Bicycle/Pedestrian/Shared Use Path projects are listed below:

- *MD 22 bicycle and pedestrian upgrades:* This improvement adds striping and "Share the Road" signage within the existing right-of-way along the MD 22 corridor as identified within the MD 22 Multimodal Corridor Study.
- *MacPhail Road Shared Use Path:* Create a bicycle and pedestrian connection between MD 24 and MD 924 with the construction of a shared use path from MD 924 to Atwood Road.

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- *MD 24 Shared Use Path:* Create a bicycle and pedestrian connection from the University of Maryland/Upper Chesapeake Medical Center campus to the Harford Mall with the construction of a shared use path from MacPhail Road to Boulton Street.

We would like to thank MDOT for the continued support it has provided while meeting the transportation needs of the area. Construction on Phase II of the US 40/MD 7/MD 159 intersection, the MD 22/MD 132 intersection, the MD 22/Beards Hill Road intersection, the MD 22/MD 462 intersection and the MD 755 Streetscape is underway. In addition, construction is anticipated this year for the MD 22/Thomas Run Road/Schucks Road intersection. Lastly, Harford County anticipates the completion of a comprehensive study of the MD 924 corridor that will identify ultimate improvements for a livable street and resilient community. We solicit the support of MDOT as we determine future capital projects along this corridor.

If you have any questions or need any clarifications about our list of priorities please do not hesitate to contact us.

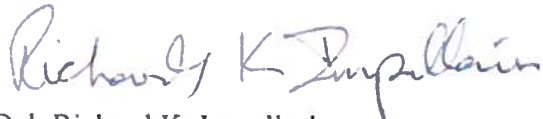
Cordially,



Barry Glassman
Harford County Executive



Richard C. Slutzky
Harford County Council President



Del. Richard K. Impallaria
Chairman, Harford County Delegation

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Attachments

cc: The Honorable J. B. Jennings
The Honorable Robert G. Cassilly
The Honorable H. Wayne Norman, Jr.
The Honorable Pat McDonough
The Honorable Kathy Szeliga
The Honorable Mary Ann Lisanti
The Honorable Susan K. McComas
The Honorable Glen Glass
The Honorable Andrew Cassilly
The Honorable Teresa Reilly
William K. "Billy" Boniface, Director of Administration
Jeffery M. Stratmeyer, Acting Director, Department of Public Works
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