

COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY



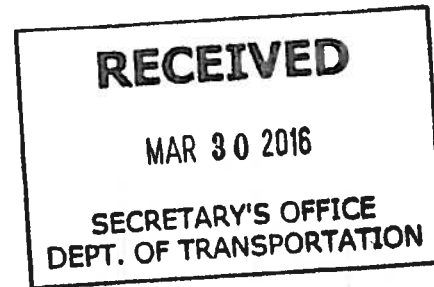
James R. Guy, President
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Tom Jarboe, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Peter K. Rahn
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548, Mail Stop 200
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: FY 2017 Transportation Program Priorities

Dear Secretary Rahn:



Thank you for the opportunity to submit St. Mary's County's priorities for your use in preparing the FY 2017 Consolidated Transportation Program.

As in recent years, we have limited the number of priority projects in light of current funding challenges and the significant amount of transportation needs throughout the state. St. Mary's County has three Major Highway Projects for your consideration. Consistent with the Chapter 725 process, we have included copies of the project questionnaires and maps, and have copied our request to the local delegation for their endorsement.

MAJOR HIGHWAY PROJECTS

1. **Thomas Johnson Bridge/ MD Route 4**

This project will relieve commuter congestion, improve safety, help position the Base for future BRAC, improve emergency evacuation, and provide bicycle tourism opportunities between the Three Notch Trail and Solomon's Island. We appreciate the funding for short-term intersection improvements, which is now complete, as well as the commitment to advance the MD Route 235 Service Drive to serve as an alternate access point for Woodland Acres community. It is our understanding that the land acquisition process has begun. We also look forward to receiving recommendations from your District Engineer regarding the safety of turning movements at the Lous Way intersection. Funding for design of the replacement bridge, MD Route 4 dualization, and capacity improvements at the MD Rt. 235 intersection is our highest priority.

2. **MD Route 5 (Point Lookout Road) from MD Route 243 (Newtowne Neck Rd.) to MD Route 245 (Hollywood Rd)**

Thank you for placing this project within the Secondary Development Program for widening and multi-lane reconstruction. We also appreciate and agree with Mr. Mobley's recommendation to pursue breakout projects, such as improvements at the Moakley Street intersection, as indicated in his February 11, 2013, letter. The planning study is now complete, and engineering/right-of-way for the Moakley Street breakout project should be the priority in FY 2017 and 2018, with construction in 2019.

3. **MD Route 5, from MD Route 246 (Great Mills Road) to MD Route 249 (Piney Point Road)**

Thank you for conducting the public workshop on March 15, 2015 at Great Mills High School and for including the remaining planning funds, as well as design funding for intersection, bridge, and drainage improvements between MD Route 246 and Flat Iron Road/Indian Bridge Road intersections in the Secondary Development and Evaluation Program. Subsequent phases should be added as funding and priorities allow. We are somewhat concerned that no construction funding is shown in the five year program, and trust it will be added once design is underway.

For subsequent phases, please note that traffic congestion on MD Route 5 between Flat Iron Road/Indian Bridge Road and MD Route 249 creates safety concerns for those entering and exiting Holy Face Church, Holy Face Rectory and Little Flower School. We request that a high priority be placed on evaluating whether these three entrances could be improved by adding a left turn lane and extending the additional right lanes that are already in place. By considering less costly near-term improvements, the more costly improvements may be deferred for many years.

MINOR HIGHWAY PROJECTS

1. **MD Route 234 (Budd's Creek Road) - MD Route 242 (Colton's Point Road)**

Thank you for re-programming this roundabout project, which will reduce congestion and improve traffic safety. We understand construction has been programmed for FY 2017.

2. **MD Route 5, south of Camp Brown Road to Ranger Station**

We appreciate your continued commitment to this safety project, and look forward to engineering continuing during the present year. Construction funding for this project is shown for 2019, but this Board feels that the MD Route 5 project is Great Mills is a higher priority.

3. **Overlay Program**

We are happy to see a continued level of increased funding for badly needed overlay projects. A continued higher than average funding effort, combined with lower asphalt prices will be needed to restore Maryland's roads to their once Nation leading condition. We request you consider evaluating maintenance paving on MD Route 238, between Dr. Johnson Road and MD Route 5.

4. **Trails and Bikeways**

At the request of our increasing bicycling community, we have arrived at a County-wide Plan and are including paved shoulders in our overlay program and requiring developers to provide facilities along their frontage. We are requesting that MDOT participate in this effort through their development review process as well as the CTP. Improved shoulders should be included in the System Preservation program and special projects. Some of the higher priority State roadways with shoulders in need of improvement include MD Route 6 from MD Route 5 to All Faith Church Road, MD Route 245 from MD Route 5 to Baldrige Street and east on MD Route 245, MD Route 5 from MD Route 243 to MD Route 245, MD Routes 236, 243, 272, and 244. We are requesting that staff continue to discuss priorities with SHA staff during their quarterly meetings.

Your continued support of the Three Notch Trail within the Transportation Enhancement Program is also appreciated. Construction of Phase VI will be completed this Spring. The installation of pedestrian equipment for the MD 5 crossing at Mohawk Drive has been completed. Please complete the crossing at the Golden Beach Road intersection with MD Route 5 in the near future.

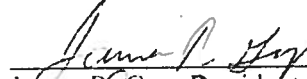
MINOR SIDEWALK RETROFIT PROGRAM

MD Route 245 from MD 5 to Leonards Grant Parkway, and MD Route 4 from MD Route 235 to Wildewood Parkway

We received the preliminary plans for the MD Route 245 sidewalk retrofit project and support the Town's request to extend the project to the Leonard's Grant Parkway intersection as Phase 2 of the project due to the major residential development, a new elementary school, as well as the future construction of a middle school, athletic fields and a new library/senior activity center which is currently under design. Subject to the availability of funding, we also request a retrofit project along MD Route 4 to assist Wildewood residents and residents of the Walden Sierra Facility in accessing shopping areas along MD Route 235.

We look forward to receiving the CTP and to discussing the continued progression on these local and regional projects during the fall pre-tour and tour meetings. Your support and responsiveness to the transportation needs of St. Mary's County would be deeply appreciated.

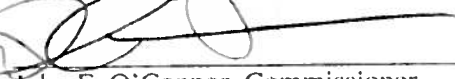
Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James R. Guy, President


Michael I. Hewitt, Commissioner


Tom Jarboe, Commissioner


Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner


John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

CSMC/ge/sf
T All/Consent/2016/053

Attachments

cc: Senator Steven M. Waugh
Delegate Deborah C. Rey
Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell
Delegate Matt Morgan
Mayor Dan Burris, Town of Leonardtown
Mr. Tim Smith, District Engineer
Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, Office of Planning & Capital Programming, MDOT
Mr. Matt Baker, Regional Planner, Office of Planning, MDOT
Mr. John Hartline, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
Mr. George A. Erichsen, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works & Transportation
Mr. Phil Shire, Director, Land Use & Growth Management