



David J. Caporale, President
William R. Atkinson, Commissioner
Creade V. Brodie, Jr., Commissioner
Jason M. Bennett, CPA, Administrator
T. Lee Beeman, Esq, Attorney
Adam Patterson, PE, Director

The Hon. Paul J. Weidefeld, Maryland Transportation Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: Allegany County 2023 Transportation Priorities

Dear Transportation Secretary Weidefeld:

The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County, in cooperation with the municipalities of Allegany County is pleased to present our transportation priorities to your department for the FY 2024 – 2028 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP.) The County's transportation priorities focus on system preservation, safety, and supporting economic development. The County appreciates your responsiveness to Allegany County's requests to move projects forward efficiently to better serve the needs of our constituents.

Thank you for the continued funding of the following projects in Allegany County:

- I-68 Cumberland Viaduct – Bridge Deck Replacement and Bridge Rehabilitation
- US 220, McMullen Highway – Geometric Improvements along US 220, MD 53, and MD 63 – Cresaptown
- Baltimore Street Access Project
- Rehabilitation of Bridge A-C-06 Baltimore Street Over Wills Creek
- Cumberland Street Bridge (A-C-09)
- Fayette Street Bridge Rehabilitation
- Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Spur: The Evergreen Trail

This year, you will see many of the projects that were listed in the 2022 Priority Letter; the project requests have been updated to move these projects to completion. It is critical that projects in Allegany County continue to receive funding for consecutive phasing and to see these projects are completed in a timely manner to reach the goals of a safe and effective transportation system.

To be consistent with the Chapter 725 process, representatives from the County and the municipalities discussed and prioritized the following projects at a coordination meeting held Monday, March 20, 2023. The Board of Commissioners, as a part of the agenda of their regular public business meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023 endorsed the 2023 priority requests. On behalf of Allegany County, the Town of Barton, the City of Cumberland, the City of Frostburg, the Town of Lonaconing, the Town of Luke, the Town of Midland, and the Town of Westport, we would like to submit the following projects:

- 1. US 220 Corridor Funding to Complete Project Planning (South of Cresaptown to WV State Line)**
Allegany County requests MDOT to program planning funding to move this project forward and complete planning via a Tier II NEPA study. In 2014, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway

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Administration and West Virginia Division of Highways jointly completed a Tier I NEPA study from south of Cresaptown to the West Virginia state line. However, FHWA requires a Tier II NEPA study be completed to identify an alternative that could advance into design and officially complete the planning phase. The County supports an overall plan for the development of a multilane highway to improve safety, enhance accessibility, and promote economic vitality in Allegany County.

2. Frostburg Gateway Enhancement Project

The City of Frostburg requests additional construction funding to complete the Frostburg Gateway Enhancement. The Gateway Project will replace a difficult-to-navigate five-way intersection where Braddock Road (MD 736) meets Center Street with a roundabout and associated bicycle, pedestrian, and stormwater drainage features. This intersection serves as the sole gateway to the Frostburg Central Business District from Exit 33 via Interstate 68, but has many traffic pattern, safety, and aesthetic limitations that cause frequent issues. In addition to the roundabout and related improvements, the project will make changes to traffic patterns including converting a portion of a one-way street to two-way. Improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities involve the construction of new crossings, sidewalks, bike lanes, and additional lighting. The project is currently in the Design phase, funded by the ARC, which has also provided partial construction funding. Due to rising costs during the pandemic, the City is seeking additional funds for construction, which is anticipated to begin in Fall 2023.

3. Pedestrian Connections at MD 36 and US ALT 40 - Eckhart to Village Parkway

SHA recently completed major sidewalk improvements along Main Street (US 40) in Frostburg. The improvements have revitalized the "walkability" for the City; however, a disconnect at the east end of Main Street continues to be a concern due to high pedestrian traffic to major employers and shopping centers located in this area. A network of sidewalk and trail facilities is needed to connect the many businesses with the City, Mountain Ridge High School, and the community of Eckhart. Three state routes all converge at this location: US 40, MD 36, and MD 743, including 2 signalized intersections. The Cumberland Area MPO completed an East Frostburg Pedestrian Connection Plan and Preliminary Design of connecting bikeways and trails, in coordination with the City of Frostburg, and funding will be sought for final design and construction.

4. US 220 Bowling Green Drainage Improvements (updated)

Allegany County requests continued support funding for all phases of the Bowling Green drainage improvements from Milnor Avenue to Moss Ave. After the June 12, 2014 flood event, State Highway Administration (SHA) and Allegany County collaborated with Whitney Bailey Cox & Magnani, LLC (WBCM) in preparing the Bowling Green Flooding Hydrology/Hydraulics Study, which proposed short-, mid-, and long-term solutions in response to the flood event. Phase I was completed April 2019. Engineering has been completed for Phase II and is ready for construction. It was delayed in 2020. It is imperative to secure funding for this project to see it through completion. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, State funding was not available for planned construction April 2020 and April 2021. A small-scale project, Phase II-A was fully funded by the Allegany County in 2021. State funding has been made available for FY2023 and the County will be moving forward with construction of Phase III in Summer 2023. Allegany County requests that SHA to continue to obligate funding for the cost of finalizing engineering/design, permitting, administering the advertisement/bid/award, and construction management services. SHA will fund the construction cost of all work within the US 220 right-of-way and split the cost with Allegany County for all work from US 220 to the CSX Railroad.

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5. Allegany County Transit Operating & Capital Funding (updated)

Allegany County Transit is requesting funding for operations and capital projects. Additional funding is requested for a Garage Door Replacement Project and a new fleet management software system. Allegany County Transit operates a fixed route and demand response service in Allegany County. The Transit's mission is to provide the citizens and visitors of the Allegany County service area with clean, safe, reliable, courteous, and efficient transportation—continued support is requested for operation funds to achieve our mission. The Capital Funding request for FY 2024 is for preventative maintenance.

6. Construction Funds for Braddock Road Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements

The City of Frostburg requests construction funding for continuous walking and biking lanes on Braddock Street (near I-68 Exit 33) to Center Street in order to complete the project. Preliminary engineering was funded in FY2020, but final design was delayed due to COVID and the City is eager to revitalize the project to coordinate with upcoming development planned in the area. There are no costs anticipated for right of way acquisition. The project lies along MD 736 adjacent to the Frostburg State University (FSU) campus, and will address the need for increased safety within a high-volume pedestrian and bicycle traffic corridor; effectively linking local residents to large employers such as Active Network, Appalachian Laboratory, Edgewood Commons, the FSU campus, and the Center Street and Sand Spring II developments, at the gateway to downtown Frostburg.

7. MD 135 Slope Protection Project & Condition Improvements

Allegany County, the Town of Luke, and the Town of Westernport request funding for engineering for Phase II of the MD 135 Slope Protection Project (to improve access and road conditions in areas of MD 135). A geologically-based concept study done in fall 2017 evaluated areas along MD 135 from Bloomington to McCoole that were prone to failure, shearing rock, and overburden of saturated soils. Seven areas identified as high risk and high probability of failure are under design and construction funding for Phase I was funded in FY 2021. Funding for the design of Phase II, Section 10 - MD 135 between Luke & Westernport, is requested to be programmed in the coming years for design and construction to address the next high-risk areas to the continue safe operation of MD 135.

As MDOT is addressing the MD slope protection project, Allegany County requests traffic congestion improvements to MD 135, specifically in Westernport, in the vicinity of Church Street. The current traffic congestion effects access to following businesses in Westernport along MD 135: McDonald's, The Dollar General and Fair Price Market.

Also, as MDOT is working on MD 135, the Town of Luke would like the pavement conditions through their Town to be addressed. The culverts that were installed to remedy drainage issues, are now clogged and the paving has deteriorated to the point that there are bumps in the road at each culvert.

8. Great Allegheny Passage Stabilization, Drainage, & Surface Improvements (updated)

Allegany County requests construction funding for stabilization, drainage, and surface improvements on the Great Allegheny Passage. Improvements are needed in various locations throughout the County to eliminate the ongoing maintenance that is required to combat drainage and trail surface issues. These improvements relieve ongoing maintenance issues and improve safety for all trail users.

9. Mechanic & Harrison Street Intersection Safety Improvements (NEW)

The City of Cumberland is requesting Maryland to obligate planning funds to make a safety improvement to the intersection of Harrison and Mechanic Street. The narrow streets restrict the turning radius for tractor trailers that are traveling to MD-51 and attempting to reach I-68 West. One of the existing traffic signal poles was replaced in 2020 and continues to be damaged due to the turning radius. The City is proposing to widen

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the intersection to improve turning radius. The project will require new traffic signals and multiple power pole relocations.

Additional Projects for Future Funding Considerations:

1. Washington Street Bridge Rehabilitation

The City of Cumberland is requesting that the state obligate funding to replace the Washington Street Bridge. This is one of three bridges located along a CSX railway. The City and CSX have been in negotiations for several years to address ownership of the bridges, which is expected to result in the City assuming ownership of the Washington Street Bridge. This is a critical project for allowing the City to restore traffic flows to Washington Street which located within a Historic District of the City. The under clearance of the bridge will need to be raised nearly 4 feet which will require retaining walls to accommodate the new bridge approach. The project estimate for replacing the bridge is \$6,000,000.

2. Frostburg Hillside Tram

A significant number of visitors to the City of Frostburg arrive by way of the Great Allegheny Passage Trail and Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. However, a geographical barrier in the form of a steep incline separates these popular tourism features from the business district. The City has completed a Preliminary Engineering Study and Design for the Hillside Tram and the project is widely supported by the community and business owners. The City is seeking funds for the Final Design and Construction.

3. Midland Sidewalk Repairs

The Town of Midland is requesting a project to repair and/or replace uneven sidewalk along Rt. 36 between the north and south connections with Paradise Street to enhance the safety and mobility within an ever-increasing pedestrian route through town. The current sidewalks along Rt. 36 through the Town of Midland were constructed along with the new Rt. 36 alignment over 25 years ago. The Town of Midland, with MDOT SHA funding, extended the sidewalks along the eastside of Rt. 36 with tie-in to Paradise Street promoting a connection between the north and south ends of town. This connection was made in 2002 to enhance the pedestrian safety and mobility in these areas along the roadway. The current conditions of the sidewalk are hazardous to the safety of pedestrians traveling from one end of town to the other. The concrete slabs have shifted over the years and broken creating an uneven walking surface which can lead to trips and falls for the pedestrians using the sidewalk. The Town of Midland is requesting funding to repair and/or replace the current sidewalk along the eastside of Rt. 36 between the north and south connections to Paradise Street.

4. Safe Walkway/Bikeway from Westernport through Luke to Garrett County Line

The Town of Luke seeks to conduct a feasibility study and preliminary design for a bikeway through the Town of Luke. This work will be completed through a grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program. The work completed under this contract will include the evaluation, planning and preliminary design of the town's proposed bicycle network. The proposed low-traffic-stress bicycle network will improve safety conditions to encourage bicycling for residents and tourists.

5. Greene Street Rehabilitation & Streetscape Improvements

The City of Cumberland requests design and construction funding for the rehabilitation of Greene Street to improve road structure, road surface, pedestrian/bicycle/ADA sidewalks, and streetscape upgrades. Greene Street is in need of significant rehabilitation to handle the traffic on this West Side arterial street. The City is looking to implement the Greene Street Complete Street Plan to improve the corridor for all modes of transportation. The Greene Street Complete Street Plan (financed by the Cumberland Area MPO) was

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completed in 2015. The plan provides a vision for a safer, more attractive, and economically viable street spanning from Baltimore Street to the end of City maintenance at I-68 Exit 42.

6. Georges Creek Rail Trail

Allegany County Government and Maryland DNR have an active MOU in place to support the completion of a 7.54-mile recreational trail between milepost BAI 26.00 in Moscow, and milepost BAI 18.46 in Shaft, in Allegany County, Md. The trail would revitalize the former rail corridor along George's Creek, connecting multiple communities through a bike/pedestrian trail system.

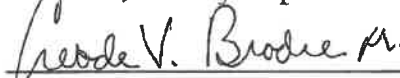
Thank you for your consideration of these transportation priorities in Allegany County. We look forward to a productive partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation and to actively participate in the development of the CTP to plan and implement these projects.

If you need any clarifications about our recommendations, please contact us.

Sincerely,
The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County



President, David J. Caporale



Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.



William R Atkinson (Mar 30, 2023 09:51 EDT)

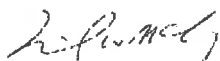
Commissioner William R. Atkinson

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District 1 Delegation



Senator Michael W. McKay, District 1



[James C. Hinebaugh \(Mar 28, 2023 11:18 EDT\)](#)

Delegate James C. Hinebaugh, Jr., District 1A

Delegate Jason C. Buckel, District 1B



[Terry L. Baker \(Mar 28, 2023 11:10 EDT\)](#)

Delegate Terry L. Baker, District 1C

Municipal Elected Officials of Allegany County



[Daniel A. Colmer \(Apr 5, 2023 08:50 EDT\)](#)

Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton



[Raymond M. Morriss \(Mar 30, 2023 14:05 EDT\)](#)

Raymond M Morriss, Mayor, City of Cumberland



[W. Robert Flanigan \(Mar 28, 2023 19:57 EDT\)](#)

W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg



[John W. Coburn Jr. \(Mar 29, 2023 11:13 EDT\)](#)

John W. Coburn, Mayor, Town of Lonaconing



[Edward E. Clemons, Jr. \(Mar 28, 2023 12:57 EDT\)](#)

Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke



[John Monahan \(Mar 29, 2023 15:13 EDT\)](#)

John Monahan, Mayor, Town of Midland



[Judy Hamilton \(Apr 4, 2023 11:30 EDT\)](#)

Judy Hamilton, Mayor, Town of Westernport

Enclosures:

Maps

Cc:

The Hon. Michael W. McKay, Maryland Senate
The Hon. Jason C. Buckel, Maryland House of Delegates
The Hon. James C. Hinebaugh, Jr., Maryland House of Delegates
The Hon. Terry L. Baker, Maryland House of Delegates
Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton
Raymond Morriss, Mayor, City of Cumberland
W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg
John W. Coburn, Mayor Town of Lonaconing
Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke
John Monahan, Mayor, Town of Midland
Judy Hamilton, Mayor, Town of Westernport
Bcc:
Dave Cotton, Maryland Department of Planning
Anthony Crawford, District 6 State Highway Administration
David Schlie, State Highway Administration
Tyson Byrne, Manager, Regional Planning, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation

Kari Snyder, Regional Planner, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
Sean Varsolona, Regional Planner, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, Maryland Department of Transportation
Travis Johnston, Director Office of Local Transit Support, Maryland Transit Administration
Karlie Shannon, Regional Planner, Maryland Transit Administration
Jason M. Bennett, C.P.A., Administrator, Allegany County
Adam Patterson, P.E., Director, Public Works, Allegany County
Whitney M. Patterson, Engineer II, Public Works, Allegany County
Roy Cool, Planner III/ MPO Coordinator
Robert Smith, City Engineer, City of Cumberland
Elizabeth Stahlman, Director of Community Development, City of Frostburg
Hayden Lindsay, City Engineer, City of Frostburg
Dawn Beitzel, Circuit Rider

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2022 Priority	Project Name	Jurisdiction	Anticipated Cost \$(,000's)	Funding Source	% Funding Source	MPO LRTP?	Outside MPO	Safety & Security	System Preservation	Quality of Service	Environmental Stewardship	Community Vitality	Economic Prosperity	Opportunity Zone	Sustainable Community	Contact Name	Contact email
1	US 220 Corridor Funding for Preliminary Engineering & ROW	Allegany County	TBD	No Portion		Yes	No			X		X	X			Whitney Patterson	wpatterson@alleganygov.org
2	Frostburg Gateway Enhancement Project	City of Frostburg	\$ 4,300	No Portion		Yes	No			X	X	X	X			Hayden Lindsey	hlindsey@frostburgcity.org
3	Pedestrian Connections at MD 36 and US ALT 40 - Eckhart to Village Parkway	City of Frostburg	TBD	No Portion	0%	Yes	No	X				X	X		X	Hayden Lindsey	hlindsey@frostburgcity.org
4	US 220 Bowling Green Drainage Improvements	Allegany County	\$ 600	No Portion		Yes	No		X		X					Adam Patterson	adam.patterson@alleganygov.org
5	Allegany County Transit Operating & Capital Funding - Garage Door Replacement	Allegany County	\$ 1,900	Local	10-50%	Yes	No	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Roy Cool	rcool@alleganygov.org
6	Construction Funds for Braddock Road Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements	City of Frostburg	TBD	No Portion		Yes	No	X		X	X	X	X			Hayden Lindsey	hlindsey@frostburgcity.org
7	MD 135 Slope Protection Project & Condition Improvements	Town of Luke & Allegany County	TBD	No Portion		Yes	No	X								Whitney Patterson	wpatterson@alleganygov.org
8	Great Allegheny Passage Stabilization, Drainage & Surface Improvements	Allegany County	\$ 300	No Portion		Yes	No	X	X		X		X			Adam Patterson	adam.patterson@alleganygov.org
9	Mechanic & Harrison Street Intersection Safety Improvements	City of Cumberland	\$ 500	No Portion		No		X	X	X				X	X	Robert Smith	robert.smith@cumberlandmd.gov
*	<u>Additional Projects for Future Funding Considerations:</u>																
1	Washington Street Bridge Rehabilitation	City of Cumberland	TBD	Local	<50%	Yes	No	X	X			X		X	X	Robert Smith	robert.smith@cumberlandmd.gov
2	Frostburg Hillside Tram	City of Frostburg	\$ 1,000	No Portion		Yes	No	X	X		X		X			Hayden Lindsey	hlindsey@frostburgcity.org
3	Midland Sidewalk Repairs	Town of Midland & Allegany County	TBD	No Portion	0%	Yes	No	X				X	X		X	Craig Alexander	ccalexander@hughes.net
4	Safe Walkway/Bikeway from Westernport through Luke to Garrett County Line	Town of Luke	TBD	Local	20%	Yes	No	X		X		X	X			Hon. Rev. Ed Clemons, Jr.	edclemonsjr@yahoo.com
5	Greene Street Rehabilitation & Streetscape Improvements	City of Cumberland	\$ 6,806	No Portion	20%	Yes	No					X	X		X	Robert Smith	robert.smith@cumberlandmd.gov

Park Avenue and Braddock Road Intersection and Approach Project

1 inch = 200 feet



Frostburg State University

PROJECT AREA

TO MAIN STREET
Center St

Alley 33

Bowery St

Oak St

American Ave

TO I-68

Braddock Rd

Bowery Street Ext.

Welsh Hill Commons

Park Ave

Hill St

Welsh Hill Rd

Spring St

Warns Ln



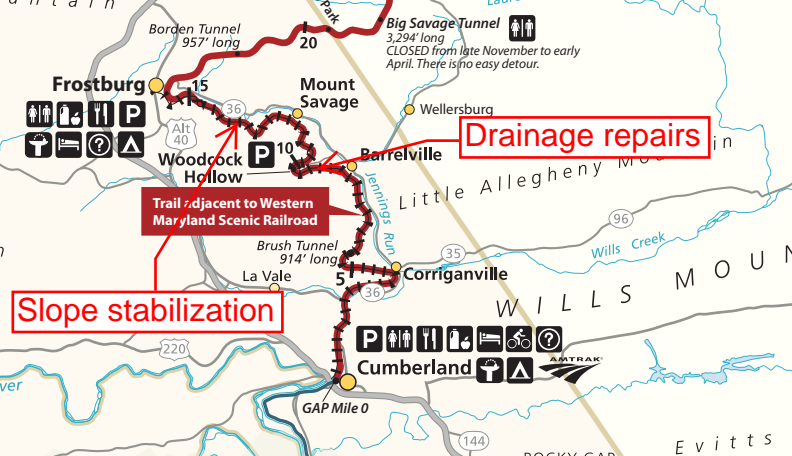


★ Braddock Road Intersection and Safety Improvement Project - construction 2016



Braddock Road - MD 736 Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements
City of Frostburg

1 inch = 600 feet



Trail adjacent to Western Maryland Scenic Railroad

Drainage repairs

Slope stabilization

Big Savage Tunnel
3,294' long
CLOSED from late November to early April. There is no easy detour.

Borden Tunnel
957' long

Brush Tunnel
914' long

Frostburg

Mount Savage

Barrelville

Corriganville

Cumberland

Woodcock Hollow

La Vale

Wellersburg

GAP Mile 0

Little Allegheny Mountain

WILLS MOUNTAIN

Evitts

ROCKY GAP

220

35

96

36

Alt 40

20

15

36

10

5

144

