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CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of the Director

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September 16, 2021

Gregory I. Slater, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P. O. Box 548
Hanover, MD 21076

RE: Cecil County's 2021 Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Slater:

Cecil County Government submits this letter to articulate its transportation priorities to your department for 2021. We continue to recognize not only our mutual challenges and opportunities to better determine our transportation future, here in the northeast transportation corridor. The needs of the County and its eight municipalities are reflected in these priority projects.

Because of the important relationships among transportation and air quality, congestion mitigation, and providing more livable and sustainable communities with better linked land use and transportation, we have established four broad transportation improvement categories, as follows:

- I-95 Corridor Access and Mobility Enhancement Improvements
- Stormwater infrastructure improvements in Port Deposit along Route 222
- US 40 Corridor and Intersection Improvements
- Municipal Priorities

Based upon those categorical priorities, our overall top three individual priority improvements are as follows:

- 1) Implement the new Belvidere Road I-95 interchange including the expansion of Belvidere Road between I-95 and US 40.
- 2) Stormwater infrastructure improvements in Port Deposit along Route 222
- 3) Road and intersection improvements to state highways around the Bainbridge development.

Implement the new Belvidere Road I-95 interchange including the expansion of Belvidere Road between I-95 and US 40.

This project implements the County’s Comprehensive Plan objective of expanding the road network in the County’s growth corridor and providing alternate north-south route options between I-95 and US 40. The 2010 plan identified a “potential new I-95 interchange between MD 222 and MD 272” with the implementation of the change tied to “redevelopment of the Mineral Extraction Area.” This area is currently being redeveloped into the Principio Business Park. The interchange will improve the secure movement of people, goods and data and improve emergency response on of the County’s largest employment centers. Additionally, it will minimize travel delays on Maryland’s transportation system by reducing freight traffic in the towns of North East and Perryville and have the added benefit of air quality improvement by reducing idle times in the towns.

Stormwater management improvements along Route 222 in Port Deposit

The town of Port Deposit has suffered from poor stormwater drainage along its main street, state highway Route 222. Some work has been done, but was not completed some years ago, and completion of the project is needed for transportation safety and property protection from storm water runoff. The project scope should also include getting individual property stormwater runoff diverted from the wastewater system and into this new stormwater capture design to protect the county’s new wastewater treatment plan in the south end of the town.

Road and intersection improvements to State Highways around the Bainbridge Development

The redevelopment of the former Bainbridge Navy Base, west of MD 222 and south of MD 276 in Port Deposit, which approximately 400 acres or one-third of the site have been set aside for the first phase of employment uses, has begun site work and proposing groundbreaking in 2021. These capital improvements to the transportation system that will improve access to jobs and tourism and leverage economic growth opportunities. Improve the movement of goods within and through Maryland by investing in intermodal connections and improvements to reduce freight bottlenecks. The redevelopment of this site, and these proposed road improvements are identified in the County’s Comprehensive Plan. The project meets the State’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan by improving freight transportation and traffic mitigation.

These revised priorities from our letter of April 23, 2021 do not reflect all the needs within Cecil County. A table of all the County’s identified projects supports the goals of the Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP), including the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act goals, and are consistent with the County’s land use plan goals is attached to the digital submission. A paper copy can be provided upon request.

In summation, as our economy continues to grow, we will face growing traffic volumes that will test our efforts to ameliorate air quality, mitigate traffic congestion, and provide more sustainable and viable communities.

Thank you for your consideration of Cecil County’s transportation priorities.

Sincerely,



Danielle Hornberger, County Executive



Robert Meffley, President, County Council

Cecil County's State of Maryland Delegation

Senator Jason C. Gallion, District 35

Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr. District 36

Delegate Kevin B. Hornberger, District 35-A

Delegate Jay A. Jacobs, District 36

Delegate Teresa Reilly, District 35-B

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist, District 36

Delegate Mike Griffith, District 35-B

Delegate Steven J Arentz, District 36