



# CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

The Honorable Emily Keller

Mayor

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April 7, 2021

The Honorable Gregory Slater  
Maryland Secretary of Transportation  
P. O. Box 548  
Harry R. Hughes Department of Transportation Building  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076 - 0548

**RE: HAGERSTOWN MAYOR & COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES  
2021 MDOT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Dear Secretary Slater:

Thank you for being such a strong supporter of our community. As you prepare the Consolidated Transportation Plan, I am pleased to submit to you the Hagerstown Mayor & Council's list of priority transportation items based on the discussion at our April 6, 2021 Work Session:

1. **I-81 Widening.** This corridor is crucial to the economy of our area and the frequent accidents on I-81 have both a physical and perceived negative impact on Hagerstown. We are grateful for the collaboration between the community and the State Highway Administration (SHA) to submit an "*Infrastructure For Rebuilding America*" (INFRA) grant on March 19, 2021 for widening from Route 63 to Halfway Boulevard. We advocate for the widening of all 12 miles to the Pennsylvania line over the next 10 years.
2. **BPPA Study Implementation.** In February of 2020, our local Metropolitan Planning Organization (HEPMPO) funded and completed a *Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area* (BPPA) study of the downtown and Bester elementary walkshed to improve connectivity, increase safety and improve pedestrian and bicycle user comfort. The study included several recommendations for Route 40 including countdown pedestrian lights, improved crosswalk markings, and speed management on Washington Street east of Cannon Avenue. We request these recommendations be implemented by SHA.
3. **Park Circle Railroad Crossing Upgrades.** We are working with the rail coordinators in the Office of Traffic and Safety to upgrade the three crossings (Virginia Avenue, Walnut Street, and Summit Avenue) that are badly in need of repair, especially Walnut Street. The State has agreed to fund these improvements.



4. **Eastern Boulevard Corridor Improvements.** We support this Washington County led, multi-phase project to improve the Eastern Boulevard transportation corridor connecting US Route 40, Maryland Route 64, and Maryland Route 60. Specifically, we support the capacity-enhancing improvements to Maryland Route 64/Eastern Boulevard intersection that the State and County will commence in the near future. We also support the construction of Professional Boulevard and we anticipate financially supporting the construction of Phase II. We have requested that our share of the Professional Boulevard project (shown in gold on the attached map) be a “designated project” in the recent federal “*Moving Forward Act*”.
5. **US Route 40 (Dual Highway) Pedestrian Issues.** Our Engineering, Planning, and Police staff have all endorsed the “*Pedestrian Safety Study and Audit*” for US 40 between Cannon Avenue and Redwood Circle as prepared by HEPMPO in 2015. We are grateful for the excellent progress SHA has made in the implementation of sidewalks and crosswalk improvements. We ask you revisit this study and recent pedestrian accidents and reconsider portions of this study that were not implemented including ways to make all the Dual Highway more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide safer, alternative modes of travel for our population, especially those without motor vehicles.
6. **Highway User Revenues.** This revenue is essential for us to maintain the street network throughout the City. We are very grateful for our FY20 allotment of \$1,558,315 and are very thankful for everyone who restored this funding to that level. With the pandemic, we are very concerned that this crucial funding will decrease and we ask for your assistance in any way possible.
7. We strongly support and ask for continued funding from the “alternative” transportation funding programs including:
  - **Safe Routes to School Program:** We also appreciate that we have benefitted from eight grants that we were fortunate enough to obtain through this program and they have significantly improved accessibility around our many educational institutions;
  - **Bikeways Grants:** Following our *2016 Bicycle Master Plan*, we obtained grants that allow us to continue to improve our award-winning bicycle infrastructure;
  - **Transportation Alternatives Program:** We recently received a \$200,000 grant for the final design of the Marsh Run Trail. This trail will become a key element in the City’s expanding bicycle and pedestrian network. Upon completion, the trail will provide a continuous bicycle and pedestrian corridor along the southern edge of the City’s urban core, and will connect with the Hagerstown Cultural Trail (that connects City Park and our downtown City Center). We plan to request TAP funds for the construction in 2022.

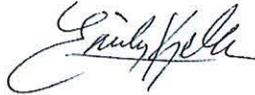
On behalf of the City Council and myself, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your consideration of our priorities and for the work that MDOT is already doing to improve transportation in our community.

**The Honorable Gregory Slater**  
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If you have any questions or need additional information before the tour meeting date, please do not hesitate to contact our City Engineer, Rodney Tissue at 301-739-8577 Extension 128, or [rtissue@hagerstownmd.org](mailto:rtissue@hagerstownmd.org).

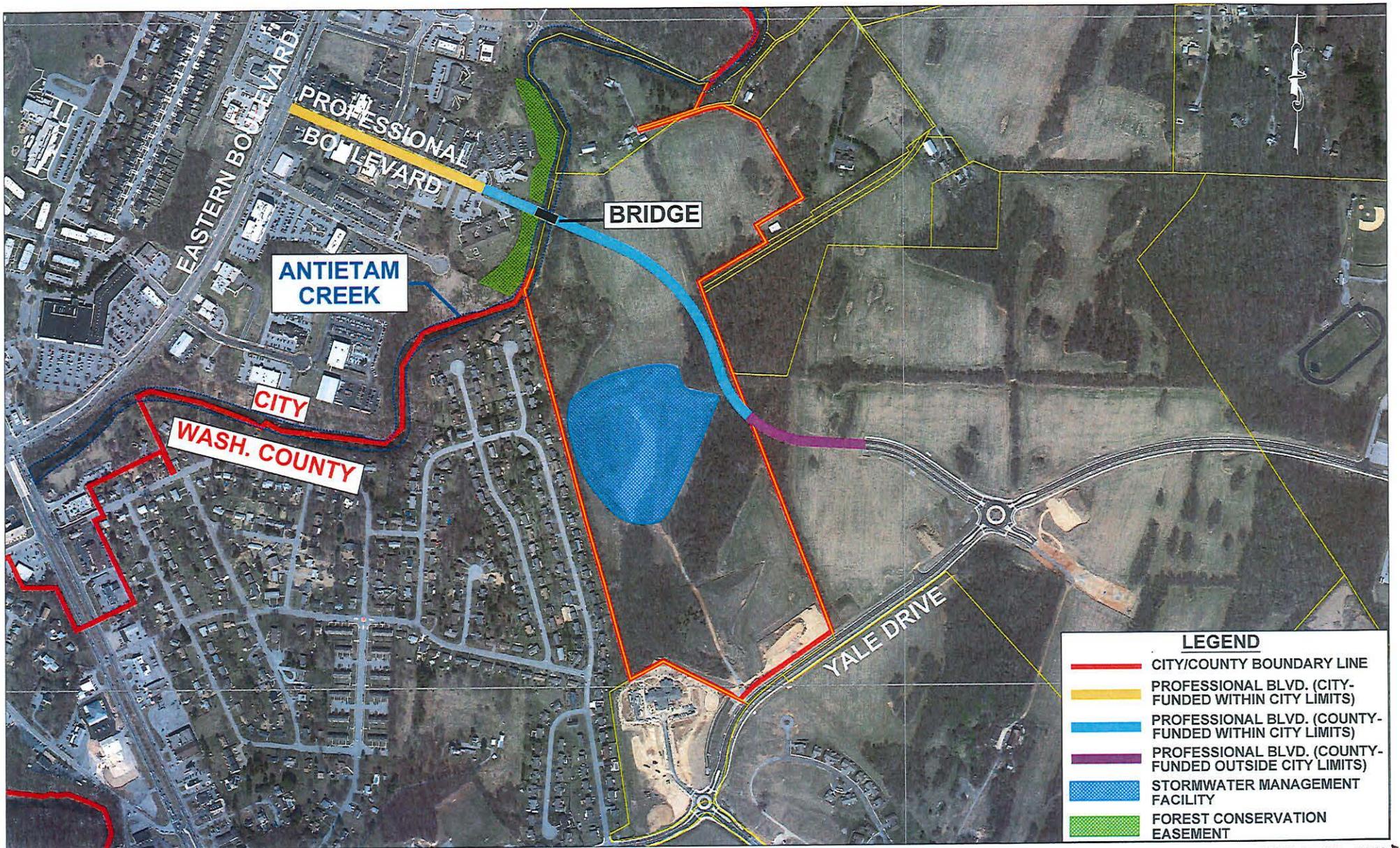
Sincerely,

**CITY OF HAGERSTOWN**



Emily Keller  
Mayor

Attachments: \* Professional Boulevard plan  
c: Washington County Delegation members  
Hagerstown City Council  
Scott Nicewarner, City of Hagerstown, City Administrator  
Rodney Tissue, City of Hagerstown, City Engineer  
Kathy Maher, City of Hagerstown, Director of Planning & Code Administration  
Anthony Crawford, District Engineer, MDSHA District 6  
John Martirano, Washington County, County Administrator  
Scott Hobbs, Washington County, Director of Engineering  
Matt Mullenax, Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Dan Spedden, Hagerstown-Washington County Convention & Visitors Bureau



PROFESSIONAL BOULEVARD & VICINITY - EXHIBIT 1

SCALE: 1" = 500'