



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716



September 19, 2025

The Honorable Samantha J. Biddle, Acting Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: City of Bowie 2025-2026 Transportation Priorities

Dear Acting Secretary Biddle:

The Bowie City Council is pleased to present the City's Transportation Priority List for 2025-2026, which was the subject of a briefing at City Hall on September 2, 2025. The City's priorities for State transportation facilities are unchanged from last year; however, this year we wish to add some additional justification and updated background for several projects on our list. It is important that we move forward on our key projects.

1. Local Road Improvement Priorities

The City's highest transportation priorities for roadway construction include the following five projects. **MD 197 is the City Council's highest transportation priority.**

- **MD 197 (Prince George's County, CTP, Line 15):**
FULLY FUND RIGHT-OF-WAY AND CONSTRUCTION

The State Highway Administration is moving ahead with a re-design of Preliminary Engineering plans for the project. The engineering phase of the FY 2025–2030 CTP is presently underway. Prince George's County contributed \$1.0 million toward planning. The goal of this project is to widen and upgrade the current single-lane portion of MD 197 to a multi-lane divided highway, spanning 1.4 miles from Kenhill Drive to MD 450. The average daily traffic in 2024 was 31,000 vehicles, and by 2044, it is expected to reach 44,300.

The existing, two-lane section is already severely congested in the morning and evening peak periods and at all hours on the weekends. The lack of roadway capacity has resulted in ever-increasing diversion of traffic from MD 197 onto the City's local street system. In addition, there are continuing concerns voiced by residents about pedestrian safety and access from the side streets. In response to numerous safety incidents, a mid-block crossing was installed recently near the Foxhill Park entrance. The State Highway Administration held a public open house to show the design plans and details to attendees on July 22nd, 2024. Maps and displays highlighted the proposed improvements. **MD 197 is ready for the State's investment of right-of-way and construction funding in the next CTP.** As you may know, City residents have been waiting for relief from this harmful congestion bottleneck for more than three decades. The MD 197 project is currently Construction Priority #5 for Prince George's County.

Letter to Transportation Acting Secretary Biddle
re: City of Bowie Transportation Priorities

- **MD 450 (Prince George's County CTP, Line 18):**
FULLY FUND RIGHT-OF-WAY AND CONSTRUCTION

This project completes a multi-segment renovation of Maryland 450 from MD 3 to Whitfield Chapel Road, which is close to the Capital Beltway. For the whole alignment, project planning was finished in 1991. The design should be finished, and construction and right-of-way acquisition are needed between Stonybrook Drive and MD 3. The objective of this project is to improve the stretch of MD Route 450 to a multi-lane divided highway (1.4 miles) by redesigning it from a location approximately 1,000 feet east of its intersection with Stonybrook Drive to MD Route 3. Engineering is around 95% finished. In 2024, the average daily traffic range was 24,900 – 31,000 vehicles per day and is projected to grow to 32,400 – 40,300 vehicles per day in the Year 2044. Due to its primary access to the Bowie Mainstreet business district, this project is extremely important to the City's economic development. The imperative need to build a safer road is even more significant.

Since Administrator Tim Smith agreed in 2021 to revisit the current MD 450 design as soon as financing resources have been discovered, the City Council appreciates your consideration of reexamining the roadway design idea for Bowie Mainstreet. The City Council has repeatedly approached SHA to revamp the Bowie Mainstreet portion of this corridor, thus we would like to see some progress made on this project. We humbly ask that the State allocate funds to the CTP so that, over the course of the next few years, the Bowie Mainstreet section of MD 450's design and engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction can be completed.

- **US 301, from Excalibur Road to Leeland Road (Project Removed):**
FUND PROJECT PLANNING OR INTERIM CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS

From August to December of 2022, the amount of traffic on US 301 increased from 62,400 to 64,200 (AADT), representing an almost 3% increase in just five months. Access and safety concerns are accentuated by the volume of traffic congestion and the significant amount of approved further development in the corridor. The current road should be expanded to three travel lanes in each direction as soon as possible in order to keep up with other MD 3/U S 301 road improvement projects scheduled for construction north and south of this segment, since it is likely that the ultimate, controlled access improvements planned for US 301 will not occur for many years to come. If a separate Project Planning study is not possible, we would respectfully request that a study be funded at the District level. As of now, the study that was done regarding the improvements to US 301 outdated. If we cannot see a revision of these studies in the near future, requesting some interim or provisional capacity improvements to ease the burden on our residents.

When fully constructed, the South Lake development plan will include 380,000 square feet of retail use, 220,000 square feet of office use, two hotels and 1,360 dwelling units, including 325 multi-family apartment units, 126 multi-family condominium (two-over-two) units, 567 townhouse units and 342 single-family detached units. In addition, a major County sports complex recently opened just south of South Lake. Liberty Sports Park features multiple fields for a variety of youth sports, including lacrosse, football, soccer, field hockey and rugby. This complex will draw visitors from throughout the country and will have a significant economic impact on Prince George's County and the surrounding area. The tremendous amount of new development in this area deserves a comprehensive approach to improving US 301 and placing this back on the CTP.

Letter to Transportation Acting Secretary Biddle
re: City of Bowie Transportation Priorities

- **MD 3 (Project Removed):**
FUND DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

This project will upgrade MD Route 3 from US Route 50 to MD Route 32 (8.89 miles) to address safety and capacity concerns. The project will improve safety and relieve traffic congestion in this heavily traveled corridor. In 2022, the average daily traffic range was 66,500 – 84,600 vehicles per day and is projected to grow to 88,600 – 137,400 vehicles per day in the Year 2042. The forecast for 2042 represents about a 63% increase in growth of the traffic volume, and it demonstrates that a need to move ahead with design and engineering now exists.

The ongoing development of Melford Village will significantly increase traffic at the MD 3 and Belair Drive intersection. The approved plans include a substantial addition of up to 100,000 sq ft of retail, 260,000 sq ft of office, 126,520 sq ft of research space, and 2,500 new residential units. With the first building already open and more construction underway, this expansion adds to the existing 1.4 million sq ft of commercial space. To address the anticipated traffic impact, it is crucial to fund the Design and Engineering phase of the MD 3 project and secure the necessary right-of-way for future improvements.

The City Council also notes that \$45 million has been expended in right-of-way acquisition for the US 301 South Corridor Transportation Study along US 301 (**Project Removed**). The City Council believes that acquiring vacant parcels in the MD 3 corridor in a similar manner would be a cost-effective way to assemble right-of-way for lane widening and construction of the future interchange at MD 450/MD 3.

- **MD 978 (Hall Road)**
FUND DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

District 3 completed construction of a sidewalk between Hall Station Drive and the CSX railroad tracks in 2017. We ask that you continue to support improvements to MD 978, as this roadway is part of the City's master planned trail network, known as The Bowie Byway. A concept development plan was completed and is awaiting design funds for the segment between the CSX railroad and MD 214. Both the City and County are committed to partnering with SHA to complete pedestrian improvements that will ensure safe access to the new South Bowie Library and sent letters to the State encouraging a shared-use path rather than a sidewalk. In 2021, the City completed a feasibility study, working with District 3, that confirmed the potential for a grade-separated pedestrian bridge over MD 214 in the vicinity of Hall Road.

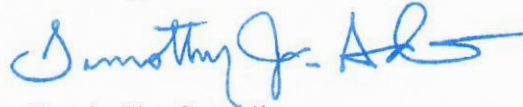
- **MD 197 North Landscaping Retrofit**

Twenty years ago, SHA's Office of Environmental Design prepared a concept plan for landscaping of the median areas between relocated MD 450 and Rockledge Elementary School. We would like to see this plan implemented. The retrofit design was achieved with broad community consensus, and the City feels the promised work is long overdue and should be initiated as soon as possible. We believe the State would eliminate and unsafe situation by eliminating the "suicide lane" and qualify for stormwater credit by reducing impervious surfaces in this part of the MD 197 corridor. The City Council asks that you provide a current cost estimate for this project so that it might be implemented by SHA District 3 as soon as possible. This project ought to begin after the MD 197 Widening project is finished.

Letter to Transportation Acting Secretary Biddle
re: City of Bowie Transportation Priorities

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our recommendations. We will be more than happy to discuss them.

Sincerely,



Bowie City Council
Timothy J. Adams
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Ronald L Watson, Ph.D., State Senator
The Honorable Marvin E. Holmes, Delegate
The Honorable Adrian Bofo, Delegate
The Honorable Kym Taylor, Delegate
The Honorable Edward Burroughs, County Council Chair
The Honorable Ingrid Watson, County Council Member
The Honorable Wala Blegay, County Council Member
The Honorable Aisha N. Braveboy, County Executive
The Honorable Darryl Barnes, Prince George's County Planning Board Chairman
Mr. William Pines, SHA Administrator
Mr. Derek L. Gunn, P.E., SHA District Engineer
Mr. Randy Clarke, WMATA General Manager/CEO
Mr. Michael Johnson, Director of Prince George's County DPW&T



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

CAPITAL DISTRICT 208

24 SEP 2025 PM 2:11



US POSTAGE

\$000.74⁰

First-Class - IMI

ZIP 20716

09/23/2025

036B 0011834077

The Honorable Samantha J. Biddle, Acting
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

21076-141501

