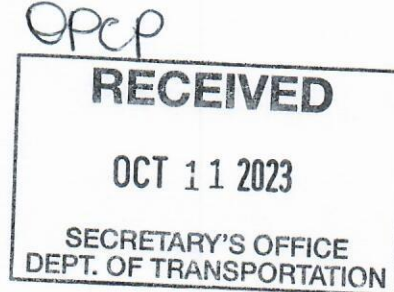




CAROLINE COUNTY  
*you belong here*  
CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT  
LARRY C. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT  
NORMAN FRANKLIN BARTZ, III., COMMISSIONER  
109 Market Street, Room 123  
Denton, Maryland 21629

The Honorable Paul J Wiedefeld  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland 21076



October 3, 2023

Re: Caroline County CTP

Secretary Wiedefeld,

The County Commissioners welcome Governor Moore and his transportation team. The County is eager to begin this collaborative journey, working collectively to address the concerns and priorities of our constituents within the county. Specifically, we are keen on prioritizing and addressing transportation-related concerns and safety issues. Our county has identified transportation as a critical area that requires attention and strategic intervention. With your leadership and the expertise of your administration, we believe we can make significant strides in this essential aspect of our community's well-being. The County's Transportation Priorities and Safety Concerns for the upcoming year are outlined as follows:

**Priority A: Complete Safety Improvements at MD 404 and MD 328/River Road**

State Highway Administration staff has made excellent progress in addressing safety improvements the Commissioners requested during last year's discussions during the CTP tour. The Commissioners request that SHA continue to work on the remaining items, many of which are already underway or in the planning stage:

- Create turn lanes on MD 328 and River Road;
- Change the timing of the light so that traffic on MD 328 and River Road do not go at the same time;
- Reduce the speed limit on MD 328 between MD 404 and Business 404/Meeting House Road to 35mph.

**Priority B: Widen MD 404 to Four Lanes from Harmony Road to MD 16 East**

The work done to dualize MD 404 has resulted in a reduction in accidents, congestion, and greatly increased user satisfaction. We remain grateful for the previous investment in the project, and while we know it is a significant undertaking, the Commissioners request that the State begin the work on the final phase of the project to dualize MD 404 from Harmony Road to MD 16 East. Specifically, the County requests that SHA start preliminary planning, fund design, engineering, as well as any necessary property or right-of-way acquisition.

**Priority C: Place "No Return to 404" Signs at the entrances of Mitchell and Hignutt Roads in Denton**  
After receiving complaints about the amount of non-local traffic, reckless driving, and safety concerns, The County Commissioners made a motion on October 11, 2022, to make Mitchell Road a posted 25mph road in attempt to allow law enforcement to enforce slower speeds. In addition, to reduce the amount of diverted traffic to Mitchell and Hignutt Roads, the Commissioners are requesting that on the 404-side entrances of Mitchell and Hignutt Roads, signs be placed stating that the roads have "No Return to 404"

**Priority D: New Red light at Oil City and Reduced Speed Limit from Oil City to Town of Denton Limits**

To address the increasing number of accidents at the Oil City intersection, the Commissioners requested additional safety measures to be added. Implementing a new red light and reducing the speed limit can be effective measures to enhance safety and reduce the frequency of accidents. Caroline County requested State Highway complete a traffic study in this area. Upon completion of the traffic study, the results warranted a change in the speed limit from the Oil City light to Denton town limits, as well as the addition of a red light.

In closing, the Commissioners sincerely appreciate the investment the Moore administration has made in the County's priority transportation projects, and they look forward to working with the new administration to ensure the safety of Caroline County residents remain a top priority.

Sincerely,



THE COMMISSIONERS OF CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
J. TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT