

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770



October 4, 2023

Mr. Paul J. Wiedefeld
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center
Hanover, MD 21076

CITY COUNCIL
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RE: Draft FY 2024-2029 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP)

Dear Secretary Wiedefeld:

The Greenbelt City Council has had the opportunity to review the State's Draft Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) for fiscal years 2024-2029. The City Council offers the following comments:

The City supports the vision, goals and priorities of the Maryland Transportation Plan, particularly those with emphasis on safety, capacity improvements, sustainability and zero emissions, economic development, public transit and transit-oriented development, equity, and pedestrian and bicycle travel.

The City would like to reiterate its appreciation for the inclusion of engineering funding for a full interchange at the Greenbelt Metro Station and the State's support for attracting the FBI Headquarters to Prince George's County. A full interchange at Greenbelt Metro Station is critical to attracting a major tenant and transit-oriented development.

However, the City continues to be disappointed that the MD 193 – Greenbelt Road Streetscape Improvement project (referred to by the County as the MD 193 – University Boulevard project), which was placed on hold in 2002, remains excluded from the CTP over a decade later, despite being a high-priority project for Prince George's County. Greenbelt Road is a major east-west corridor that connects three (3) jurisdictions: the City of Greenbelt, the City of College Park, and the Town of Berwyn Heights. While being a critical local and regional corridor, Greenbelt Road largely only accommodates motorists. The City, along with its neighboring municipalities, has engaged, and continues to engage, in planning activities to identify how this critical roadway can be improved to include streetscape improvements and

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pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The City requests that this very important project for the State, County, and local communities be added to the CTP and funding allocated to planning and engineering.

In addition, the City strongly **opposes**:

- The **Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project (SCMAGLEV)**. The City has and continues to strongly oppose the SCMAGLEV. The impacts this project will have on the natural, socioeconomic, cultural, and built environment are unacceptable and are in direct conflict with the stated goals of the Maryland Department of Transportation. This project should be removed from the CTP in its entirety.
- The **I-270 Eisenhower Memorial Highway and I-495 Capital Beltway – Phase 1 South** project. The City would like to restate its strong opposition to any alternatives in the project that involve widening I-495. Widening the highway will do little to address the region's congestion, but will have high environmental, human, and financial costs.

The two projects listed above represent a direct conflict to the State's identified priorities outlined in the Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP), including ensuring environmental protection and sensitivity, promoting fiscal responsibility, and providing better transportation choices and connections.

The City remains fully supportive of the following projects:

- The State's continued support for the construction of the **Purple Line** and investment in the **WMATA Metrorail System**. The City notes that additional mitigations are needed during construction on roads like East-West Highway so that people travelling by foot, by bike, via transit, and in cars may do so safely.
- The State's continued support for **Zero Emission Buses** and related infrastructure.
- Increased funding in this Draft CTP for the **Prince George's County Local Bus Program**. The City would also like to see additional opportunities for **Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS)** to enhance transit services with grant funding focused on developing microtransit.
- The **US 1, Baltimore Avenue** reconstruction project. The City urges that funding be programmed for engineering and construction for Segments 2 and 3 of this project, MD 193 to I-95.
- The allocation of funding to **Bicycle and Pedestrian Related Projects**. The City shares both the State's and Prince George's County's concern for pedestrian and bicycle safety and strongly urges that projects continue to be added that support this State and local priority.
- The State's continued support for **MARC Stations and Service Studies**, including the exploration of potential service expansion on the Camden line.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the CTP. If you have any questions, please contact Jaime Fearer, Assistant Director of Planning, at (301) 345-5417 or at jfearer@greenbeltmd.gov.

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Sincerely,



Emmett V. Jordan
Mayor

Cc: City Council
Senator Alonzo T. Washington
Delegate Anne Healey
Delegate Ashanti Martinez
Delegate Nicole Williams
County Councilmember Ingrid S. Watson
Four Cities Coalition
Victor Weissberg, Prince George's County DPW&T
Josué Salmerón, City Manager
Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development
Jaime Fearer, Assistant Director of Planning
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