



The County Commissioners of Kent County

Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator | Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 548
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21706

APR 29 2025
SECRETARY'S OFFICE
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

RE: Kent County 2025 Transportation Priority Letter

Dear Secretary Wiedefeld:

We would like to thank the staff of the Maryland Department of Transportation for its continued cooperation and support in meeting the transportation needs of the County. The County would like to reaffirm its continued opposition to any proposal for a north Bay Bridge crossing with a terminus in Kent County. The County's position in this regard is based on its long-standing Comprehensive Plan strategies dating back to 1974 and its affiliated Land Use designations.

In cooperation with the local municipalities in Kent County, Maryland, the Board of County Commissioners present the following priority listing of transportation projects for your consideration.

•Construction, Engineering, and Project Planning Priorities

- Chester River Bridge Crossing – aka Chester River Boulevard (This project has been entered in the MDOT Chapter 30 Portal.)

•US 301 Toll Diversion Coordination Actions in coordination with Cecil County, Maryland

•Streetscape Priorities

Betterton

- Re-stamping of crosswalk at intersection of Main Street and 6th Avenue

Butlertown, Worton and Still Pond

- MD 298, 297, and 292 – sidewalks, drainage improvements, and traffic calming
- Sidewalks to connect Kent County High School with Butlertown neighborhood

Chestertown

- The safety and speed recommendations of the 2015 Chestertown Community Task Force Report: Issues and Recommendations Regarding State Roads (completed under the assistance of the SHA District 2 office)
- Speed awareness and recording devices (permanent) on MD 213
- Pedestrian sidewalk connections on Washington Avenue (MD 213) and Morgnec Road (MD 291)

R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Kent County Government Center

400 High Street, Chestertown, MD 21620 | (410) 778-4600 ext. 4 | kentcounty@kentgov.org | kentcounty.com/government

- Safe pedestrian crosswalk connection on MD 291 at Haacke Drive for pedestrians and bikers going to and from the Chestertown YMCA and the nearby shopping centers

Galena

- Repave MD Rt. 213 from traffic light intersection north to Town limits at Mill Lane, replace damaged/missing curbing from 100 N. Main to 120 N. Main to improve drainage, restripe crosswalks and parking lanes in downtown to allow for more street parking in business district. (numerous potholes in street in both directions).
- Address surface drainage issues in the vicinity of 145 N. Main St.
- Repave MD Rt. 290 E. from the Firehouse entrance to traffic light intersection, numerous potholes and blistering patches.
- Extension of sidewalks along Rt. 290 E. from Town Hall to the Firehouse and entrance of the Olivet Hill Community.
- Construction of a safe walk/bike trail along 213 N. from the Town to Toal Park and Georgetown to improve pedestrian/bicyclist safety.

Millington

- Speed safety concern along Galena Sassafras Road; decrease speed limit entering Town
- Inspection and necessary repairs to the small bridge on the east edge of Town
- Repair storm drain retaining wall that has collapsed on Sassafras Street
- Replace culvert pipes at the entrances to 172 Sassafras Street (formerly the Millington Elementary School)

Rock Hall

- Pedestrian crosswalk at Judefind Ave to Williams Ave across Rock Hall Ave (MD 20)
- Install four-way stop signs at Main Street (MD 445) and E Sharp St / W Sharp St, and open the intersection up for better visibility (move power line poles and trees)
- widen the intersection of MD 445 and entrance of Chesapeake Ave
- Drainage improvements in the vicinity of MD 20 and Beach Road
- Pothole repairs needed on Liberty St, Chesapeake Ave, E / W Sharp St
- Repaint all crosswalk lines

•• Trail and Pedestrian Priorities

- Sidewalks and pedestrian walkways along Flatland Road
- Engineering and design for pedestrian and bicycling connections on Quaker Neck Road in order to facilitate safe crossings between the Chestertown waterfront and downtown areas, to include the Rail Trail
- MD 289 to Radcliffe Creek bike/pedestrian improvements for connections to water trail
- Rock Hall Trail System and sidewalk expansion around the waterfront:
Rock Hall sidewalk - biking Bayside Ave

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Rock Hall sidewalk - biking Chesapeake Ave
Rock Hall sidewalk - biking Lawton Ave

- Addition of bike lanes during resurfacing projects

Thank you for your consideration of these transportation priorities in Kent County. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Maryland Department of Transportation on the planning and implementation of these important local transportation improvements.

Sincerely,
THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND



Ronald H. Fithian, President



Albert H. Nickerson., Member



John F. Price, Member

Cc: Adam Streight, County Executive, Cecil County, Maryland
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator, Kent County, Maryland
Dan Mattson, P.E., C.F.M., C.M.E., Director of Public Works
William A. Mackey, AICP, DPHZ Director

MDOT Priority Letter Submission Form

Submitted by William Mackey on Apr 23rd, 2025 at 8:31 am

Status: *Completed*

MDOT Priority Letter Submission Form

Introduction

This year, local governments have two ways to submit Local Priority Letters to MDOT. Either can be used. It is the choice of the local government which they prefer. The two ways are:

- Submit Letters in the same way as they have in the past.
- Submit Letters through this online portal.

The MDOT will give letters equal consideration regardless of the method chosen by the locality.

The MDOT has created this online portal as part of an overall effort to be more transparent and responsive in its processes and decision-making. With this portal, and the guidance it provides for articulating local priorities, the MDOT seeks to achieve better, more consistent understanding of local priorities. To do this, the portal provides localities with both fillable forms asking for specific priorities, as well as providing for free-form expression to provide the opportunity to offer greater context and narrative.

This portal is also responsive to The TRAIN (Transportation Revenue and Investment Need) Commission's Interim Report recommendation: "... MDOT should standardize local priority letters...". MDOT understands the need to ensure that local governments have the opportunity to express their priorities, and the following submission form seeks to balance that need along with the recommendation of the TRAIN Commission, with the aim to better serve and be responsive to each local jurisdiction.

Key Terms

Below are definitions of key terms. In the event a project may fit in one or more categories please use your best judgement.

"System preservation" and "state of good repair" project means a project where the purpose is to improve the condition or operations of an existing asset without adding new capacity such as travel lanes. Examples include bridge rehabilitation or replacement, pavement rehabilitation, incident responses, and variable message signs.

"New capacity" and "capacity expansion" project means a project where the purpose of the project is to improve the ability of the transportation system to move people and goods. Examples including widening a road, building a new road, a new transit station, and a new transit line.

"Feasibility study" means a study of a transportation need to identify a project that can address the need. A study would complete sufficient work to allow MDOT to evaluate whether the identified concept should be included in the CTP.

"Safety" project means a project whose primary purpose is to reduce or prevent crashes but that does not add or expand the capacity of roads or transit. Examples include roadway realignment, installation of rumble strips, and guardrail.

"Bike/pedestrian" or "complete streets" project means a project to provide accommodations and/or improve safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians. Examples include new sidewalks, installation of cycle-tracks and road diets with bike lanes.

"Transit-oriented development" project means a project to support or help the construction of new residential, commercial and institutional development near a rail or bus rapid transit station.

Section 1. Local Government Information

First Name	Last Name
William	Mackey

Title/Role	Government Entity
Director of Planning, Housing, and Zoning	Kent County, Maryland

Address Line 1

400 High Street

Address Line 2

Suite 103

City	State	Zip Code
Chestertown	Maryland	21620

Section 2. Local Government Priorities

1. What are the jurisdiction's overall goals related to transportation policies and spending?

For questions 2-9, please list the jurisdiction's priorities in ranked order, with #1 as the highest priority. Please limit responses to 4 lines of text per priority. Please include the following information in the description of the priority: location, need, proposed improvements, and, as applicable, partners and/or existing funding. An example of a priority description is provided below:

- *MD XX (Cross Street 1 to Cross Street 2) Bike/Pedestrian Improvements - MD XX from Cross Street 1 to Cross Street 2 has high rates of crashes involving cyclists and pedestrians. The County seeks to increase safety by installing a new sidewalk and bike lane in both directions of MD XX. The proposed project is identified in Corridor Study A.*

2. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for system preservation/state of good repair?

3. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for new capacity or capacity expansion projects?

4. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for feasibility studies?

5. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for safety projects?

6. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for bike/pedestrian and/or complete streets projects?

7. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for Transit-Oriented Development projects?

8. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for smaller interventions (generally under \$5 million total cost)? Examples might include new striping, flex posts, addition of a stop sign or street light, signal retiming, or transportation demand management (e.g., vanpools) investments.

9. What are the jurisdiction's other transportation priorities that do not fit in the categories listed above?

10. Across all of the categories listed above, what are the jurisdiction's top five overall transportation priorities?

11. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for housing and economic development and where is it anticipated to occur?

If the jurisdiction has submitted a priority letter through different means, you may upload the letter here.



[04.22.25 Paul J. Wiedefeld 2025 Maryland Department of Transportation Priority Letter for Kent County.pdf \(1.4 MB\)](#)

I attest that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of my organization and that all information contained within is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

William A. Mackey, Jr.

I agree to be legally bound by this document.