



City of Bowie

15901 Fred Robinson Way
Bowie, Maryland 20716

October 06, 2026

The Honorable Kathryn Thomson, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076



RE: City of Bowie 2026-2027 Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Thomson:

The City of Bowie would like to submit its transportation funding priorities for 2026-27, which was the subject of a briefing at City Hall on September 21, 2026. We fully recognize funding limitations, but these priority improvements are important for safety, economic development, transport of people and goods, and for strengthening our communities.

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 14):**
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 2026–2031 CTP is presently underway. According to the FY 2026-31 State CTP, Prince George's County contributed \$1.0 million toward planning. MDOT is able to advance this project to the Engineering phase because of the funding provided by the Governor and Legislature in the last session. 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 2025 was 31,000 vehicles, and by 2045, it is expected to reach 44,300.

According to MDOT SHA Internet Traffic Monitoring System (ITMS), the existing, two-lane section is already severely congested in the morning and evening peak periods. 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 advancement of the MD 197, Collington Road project is currently one of the top *State Roads and Highway* projects for Prince George's County.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Estève".

Bowie City Council
Michael P. Estève
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Ronald L. Watson, Ph.D., State Senator
The Honorable Marvin E. Holmes, Delegate
The Honorable Adrian Boafo, Delegate
The Honorable Kym Taylor, Delegate
The Honorable Krystal Oriadha, County Council Chair
The Honorable Timothy J. Adams, County Council Member
The Honorable Wala Blegay, County Council Member At-Large
The Honorable Aisha N. Braveboy, County Executive
The Honorable Kevin A. Anderson, 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
Ms. Oluseyi Olugbenle, Maryland Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary



City of Bowie

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Bowie, Maryland 20716

October 06, 2026

The Honorable Aisha N. Braveboy
Prince George's County Executive
County Administration Building
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

RE: City of Bowie 2026-2027 Transportation Priorities

Dear County Executive Braveboy:

On September 21st, 2026, the Bowie City Council reviewed the City's Transportation Priority List. We wish to provide you with this letter to highlight our priorities for State and County transportation facilities. Below are the City of Bowie's transportation priorities and recommendations. We ask that you give them careful consideration and we would like to work with you on them to improve transportation, mobility, and the quality of life in the County and City.

1. County Capital Improvement Program

Church Road – Improving Church Road is the City's top priority for County roads. An enhancement project has been in the CIP for several years, but it has not moved forward. Unfortunately, Church Road's \$9.9 million upgrade project is still listed as "to be determined" and falls under the proposed FY 2027-32 CIP's "Beyond 6 Years" category (total project costs have increased due to inflation). Concerning Church Road, we have taken into consideration three crucial elements for improvement. Between Woodmore Road and MD 214 (Central Avenue), Church Road will receive geometric and safety improvements as part of the project. In addition, we urge the County to prioritize completing Church Road by funding the missing half-mile link from north of Fairwood Parkway to MD-450. In addition to local roadway realignments, added shoulders, and improved drainage south of Woodmore Road, this critical connection will establish an efficient east-west artery. Ultimately, this project will ease congestion, shorten commutes, enhance neighborhood connectivity, and boost economic development.

Race Track Road - The City Council supports continued funding for pedestrian safety and aesthetic landscaping improvements to Race Track Road. There is avid community support for the project. We understand that the County is still funding this project and has informed the City that it has officially restarted the project to design a portion of the project in-house. The County will be holding design meetings which City staff will participate in. The Race Track Task Force recommends a complete street cross section and extending the limits of the project past the Race Track. The City appreciates your help to address the many safety challenges on Race Track Road.

US 301 Improvements – This crucial corridor has been a challenge for decades, serving as a vital regional, state, county, and municipal artery that spans the entire length of both the City and County. While surrounding areas north in Anne Arundel County and south in Prince George's County already have active or budgeted improvements, the section within City limits urgently needs attention, especially since regional connectivity means upgrades in one area directly impact performance elsewhere. Addressing these issues is critical because delaying these repairs only compounds existing safety hazards, deepens regional bottlenecks, and forces motorists to endure worsening daily gridlock as surrounding jurisdictions pull ahead with their own projects. Furthermore, waiting risks leaving this municipal segment as a permanent chokepoint that undermines the heavy investments being made elsewhere along

Bowie strongly encourages Prince George's County, MDOT, and the selected joint development partners (BSU MARC Community Partners and Mosaic Development Partners JV/Campus Apartments) to incorporate a pedestrian connection from the MARC/Amtrak rail line connecting the Bowie State MARC Station directly to Lemons Bridge Road/Jericho Park. City staff is collaborating closely with MDOT to discuss potential active transportation infrastructure projects and explore how we can further coordinate our efforts around the MARC Train Station and the adjacent trail systems. The City recently completed the construction of a trail connection from Falling Waters Ct to Jericho Park, adding to the City's trail network. Establishing this proposed connection will further the vision of the Bowie Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan, the City's Trails Master Plan, and M-NCPPC by closing a critical multi-modal gap, improving safe access to regional transit, and expanding non-motorized connectivity for surrounding communities.

3. State Transportation Priorities

The City Council's top objectives for projects that might receive State funding are outlined in the letter that is attached and addressed to Transportation Secretary Kathryn Thomson. **The rehabilitation of MD 197 (Collington Road) between Kenhill Drive and Relocated MD 450 (#4 on County list – State Roads & Highways) remains the City's top priority for State roadway facilities.**

The City Council appreciates your time and dedication to improving transportation planning and for your commitment to serving the residents of Bowie. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Bowie City Council
Michael P. Estève
Mayor

Attachment #1: Letter to Kathryn Thomson dated October 06, 2026

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 Krystal Oriadha, County Council Chair
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Mr. William Pines, SHA Administrator
Mr. Derek L. Gunn, P.E., SHA District Engineer
Mr. Randy Clarke, WMATA General Manager/CEO
Ms. Oluseyi Olugbenle, Maryland Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary
Mr. James Hunt, M-NCPPC Acting Planning Director