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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Worcester County

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February 16, 2024  
Mr. Paul J. Wiedefeld, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076



RE: State Transportation Priorities in Worcester County for 2024

Dear Secretary Wiedefeld:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Worcester County's transportation priorities at the upcoming Consolidated Transportation Program tour this fall. In advance of that meeting, shown below is the list of projects we would like to discuss with you and the MDOT team during the tour and at the summer MACO conference in Ocean City, August 14 - 17, 2024.

### DUALIZE MD 90

Traffic congestion on MD 90 continues to worsen. Ocean City has become a year-round tourist destination and development on the north end of Worcester County continues to see record growth in new home and business construction. MD 90 needs to be dualized to address the increased traffic demands. Worcester County recognizes full dualization is a major capital project with a prolonged timeline for completion.

In addition, it is requested MDOT review the possibility of the short-term interim improvement of strengthening and widening the shoulders of MD 90 while full dualization is pursued. The shoulders of MD 90 are too narrow and too thin to support sustained vehicular traffic. As such, during most routine maintenance operations by SHA, MD 90 is placed into a flagging operation, or one lane is shut down entirely because the presence of the median guardrail. Traffic quickly backs up and significant delays are encountered. By widening and strengthening the shoulders to support temporary vehicular traffic, it will reduce the need to fully close a travel lane during maintenance or emergency response activities. It is believed this short-term improvement could be undertaken quickly while long range planning, permitting, design, and construction moves forward towards full dualization.

### DUALIZE MD 589

The north end of Worcester County has experienced significant growth over the last decade and the MD 589 corridor has become heavily congested at all times of the year. More people are living in Ocean Pines year-round than ever before, and commercial development is increasing. Congestion and delay issues along MD 589 are at or are approaching failing conditions as the road network reaches maximum

capacity. MD 589 needs to be dualized to address the congestion issues and increasing safety concerns as additional residents come to the area.

#### NEW DRAWBRIDGE ON US 50 ENTERING OCEAN CITY

Similar to MD 90, traffic congestion on US 50 continues to worsen. In recent years, there have been several incidents of the existing drawbridge getting stuck. With Ocean City serving as a year-round tourist destination, the US 50 drawbridge needs to be replaced with a more reliable structure and one that can accommodate the increasing traffic congestion issues.

#### SIGNALIZE THE INTERSECTION AT MD 611 & MD 376

During tourist season, MD 376 experiences significant delays and queuing as eastbound traffic waits to turn left onto northbound MD 611. There are several traffic generating businesses north of the intersection (ex. Frontier Town Campground & Water Park, Eagle's Landing Golf Course, Ocean City Airport) as well as numerous residential and commercial developments. The steady stream of traffic to and from Assateague Park does not allow for adequate gaps for traffic to enter onto MD 611. The intersection needs to be signalized to reduce the delay and congestion on MD 376, even if using a seasonal signal operation similar to what was approved for MD 611 and Golf Course Road several years ago.

#### SIGNALIZE THE INTERSECTION AT MD 367 & MD 368 (BISHOPVILLE)

GPS applications such as Google Maps and Waze are sending increasing amounts of traffic down MD 367 and MD 368 as an alternate route to MD 90 instead of the more appropriate and better suited route of US 113. MD 367 & MD 368 are two-lane, two-way roads intended more to serve residential traffic, not the volume of tourist traffic currently being experienced. Local residents and visitors to the area are getting stuck on MD 368 north bound as they try to turn left on MD 367 west bound. The intersection needs to be signalized to reduce delay and congestion.

#### SIGNALIZE THE INTERSECTION AT US 13 & MD 366 (POCOMOKE)

Worcester County is requesting MDOT upgrade the intersection of US 13 and MD 366 in Pocomoke from the existing intersection control beacon to a full traffic signal. Over the years, there have been multiple crashes at the intersection, including twenty (20) between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2021. All 20 crashes were angle collisions. There have also been multiple crashes this past year, 2022, which have not yet been recorded in the State's crash data but have been experienced by residents of Pocomoke. US 13 is a divided highway at this intersection with a crossing distance of 160 feet. For comparison, the intersection of US 13 and MD 364 (2.3 miles north of MD 366) has a crossing distance of 120 feet and it is signalized. In addition, US 13 & MD 366 is located on a horizontal curve and there is a grade change when approaching the intersection westbound which creates sight distance issues.

#### SIGNALIZE THE INTERSECTION AT US 50 & MD 610

Worcester County is requesting MDOT upgrade the intersection of US 50 and MD 610 to a full traffic signal similar to what was recently completed at the intersection of US 50 and Sixty Foot Road in Wicomico County. US 50 and MD 610 is a highly traveled intersection which has experienced numerous crashes over the years. Several years ago, the intersection received lane marking revisions to enhance northbound traffic's line-of-sight as it crosses westbound US 50. Despite the revisions, crashes continue to occur due to the sight distance issue and the high prevailing speed of US 50. MD 610 is a major north-south corridor, connecting US 50 to US 113 and is routinely used by both local commuters and tourists. In addition, there is a major campground on the southeast corner which acts as a traffic generator during tourist season.

## CONSTRUCT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ON US 113 NEAR CORKERS CREEK

The corridor of US 113 near Corker's Creek has several crashes between January 1, 2019, and November 30, 2022, including 1 fatal crash. The prevailing crash patterns are nighttime crashes where vehicles have left the road. Worcester County is requesting the installation of guard rail and roadway lighting through the corridor to address the safety concerns of residents in the area.

## ELIMINATE FLOODING ON MD 12 NORTH OF SNOW HILL

MD 12 north of Snow Hill floods even during moderate rain events. High water signs have been installed and are left in place year-round. The road is lower than surrounding properties and there are no drainage structures to relieve flooding. MD 12 is a designated evacuation route that is impassable during large storms (when the route is needed the most) due to the flooding. The road needs to be raised with drainage structures added to keep the road passable and clear during storm events.

## CONSTRUCT DEDICATED RIGHT TURN LANE ON SOUTH BOUND ST. MARTINS NECK ROAD AT MD 90

Thanks to GPS apps like Google and Waze, more and more out of town traffic is being directed down St. Martin's Neck Road to bypass traffic slowdowns on US 113 and MD 90. During tourist season traffic backs up as people wait to make left turns off of south bound St. Martin's Neck Road onto east bound MD 90. Currently there is only one south bound lane at the intersection. Local residents wanting to turn right onto west bound MD 90 must wait in long queues. A south bound right turn lane needs to be constructed to better facilitate traffic wanting to head west bound on MD 90.

## CONSTRUCT APS/CPS FOR PEDESTRIANS TO CROSS US 113 AT MD 346

The intersection of US 113 and MD 346 in Berlin has sidewalks, handicap ramps, and crosswalks on the east and west sides of the intersection but is lacking the necessary amenities for pedestrians to safely cross US 113. APS/CPS and crosswalks need to be added to the north leg of the intersection.

## DEVELOP AN ACCESS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE MD 611 CORRIDOR

Residential and commercial development on MD 611 is increasing. There is concern that if the growth continues, traffic congestion will become similar to what is currently experienced on MD 589. An access management plan needs to be developed for the corridor to provide a consistent and clearly understood approach as to the placement of access points, traffic signals, access roads, lane designations, pedestrian & bicycle amenities, and right-of-way needs. Future residential & commercial businesses can then reference and use the plan when developing the layout of their developments.

## CONSTRUCT SHARED USE PATH ON MD 611 FROM US 50 TO ASSATEAGUE PARK

The recent completion of the shared use path on US 50 in West Ocean City has been received and used by the public with great success. Worcester County is requesting SHA begin planning for an extension of the existing path to connect the West Ocean City area to Assateague State Park. With the volume of traffic on MD 611, the numerous traffic generating destinations along the corridor, and MDOT's goal of promoting multimodal travel, extension of the path to one of the largest traffic and tourist generating destinations in Worcester County is a logical project. A phased approach for design and construction could be used to make the project more financially feasible similar to the approach used for the shared use path on MD 413 in Somerset County.

**UPDATE THE BATHROOMS AT THE MARYLAND STATE LINE - US13 - POCOMOKE WELCOME CENTER**

MDOT is responsible for maintaining the bathrooms at the Maryland State Line welcome center on US 13 in Pocomoke. The bathrooms have deteriorated and are outdated. As a visitor's first impression of Maryland and Worcester County, the facilities need to be updated to improve the function and aesthetics.

**ADDRESS FLOODING AT INTERSECTION OF US 113 AND JOHNSON NECK ROAD**

This intersection is a low-lying roadway coupled with tidal influence from the Pocomoke River, water is prevented from draining during moderate/severe rainfall events which impacts all low-clearance vehicles trying to exit onto US 113. It's the County's understanding SHA was applying for a permit from MDE to clean out roadside ditch along US 113 N/B, south of Johnson Neck Road to allow some of the water to access adjacent creek to the south. To date, the ditch has not yet been cleaned out.

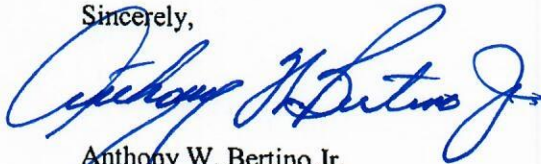
**CLEAN AND PAINT THE HISTORIC POCOMOKE RIVER BRIDGE ON US 13 BUSINESS**

The historic Pocomoke River Bridge on US 13 Business is the gateway to downtown Pocomoke and the first impress visitors and tourists see when entering the town. Over the years the bridge has become dirty and paint is beginning to peel off. The County and the City of Pocomoke request the bridge be cleaned and repainted to match the revitalization efforts taking place in the surrounding area.

Lastly, Worcester County has received the attached priority letters from Ocean City, Snow Hill, and Berlin which we are including in this submittal to MDOT.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. If you should require any additional information or have any questions or concerns with regards to these matters, please feel free to contact me or Weston Young, Chief Administrative Officer, at this office.

Sincerely,



Anthony W. Bertino Jr.  
President

CC: Weston Young, Chief Administrative Officer  
Candace Savage, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Dallas Baker, Director of Public Works  
Chris Clasing, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Jennifer Keener, Director of Development, Review, and Permitting  
Michael Pruitt, Mayor, Snow Hill  
Zack Tyndall, Mayor, Berlin  
Richard W. Meehan, Mayor, Ocean City  
Mark Crampton, D-1 District Engineer, SHA  
Senator Mary Beth Carozza  
Delegate Wayne Hartman  
Delegate Charles J. Otto



# TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

*The White Marlin Capital of the World*

February 7, 2024

Mr. Dallas Baker  
Director of Public Works  
Worcester County  
6113 Timmons Rd  
Snow Hill, MD 21863

RE: Consolidated Transportation Program Request 2024

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input on Worcester County's Consolidated Transportation Program Priority letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Ocean City's highest priority remains the full dualization of Maryland Rt. 90 for its full length from Rt 50 to Rt 528 (Coastal Hwy). Not only has congestion on Rt 90 worsened over the years, but more frequent breakdowns of the aging Rt 50 drawbridge have placed additional stress on the Rt90 access. In addition, because Rt 90 is a two-lane highway with a barrier, even relatively minor accidents can close the entire highway in one or both directions. This has caused delays in emergency transport and left Ocean City without ambulances on occasion as all are tied up in traffic either transporting to the hospital or attempting to reenter Ocean City from the hospital. Rt 90 also functions as a primary evacuation route off the island.

Understanding that dualization for the entire length of RT90 is no longer being considered by the State Highway Administration, Ocean City does support the State Highway's proposed dualization from Rt 528 (Coastal Highway) to Rt 113 along with shoulder hardening from Rt 113 to Rt 50. We believe this will have a significant positive impact on traffic flow, emergency vehicle response times and evacuation times.

Ocean City's next priority is the replacement of the Rt 50 Drawbridge for the same reasons outlined in the 2022 letter. The frequency of draw span malfunctions increases each year causing major traffic disruptions. When the draw span is operating properly, the delays caused by the regular half hour openings are the major source of congestion in the Ocean City downtown area. A new reliable draw bridge with a taller clearance would reduce the frequency of openings and help ease congestion on both sides of the bridge.

**MAYOR**

Richard W. Meehan

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**CITY MANAGER**

Terence J. McGean, PE

**CITY CLERK**

Diana L. Chavis, MMC

P.O. Box 158, Ocean City, Maryland 21843-0158 | [oceancitymd.gov](http://oceancitymd.gov) | City Hall: (410) 289-8221 | Fax: (410) 289-8703

Somewhere to Smile About  **Ocean City** MD

Ocean City would also request that the State Highway evaluate the intersection of RT 50 and 611. Specifically, the east bound left turn lane into the White Marlin Shopping Center consistently stacks up beyond its length. This results in stopped left movement traffic at the signal overflowing into the travel lanes and blocking through traffic on Rt 50.

Ocean City fully supports all of Worcester County's other requests in the 2023 letter. We particularly recognize the need to dualize Rt 589 given the growth along this corridor.

Thank you again for your consideration and cooperation in moving these important projects forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,



Terence J. McGean, PE  
City Manager

cc: Mayor Richard W. Meehan  
City Council Members  
Public Works Director Hal Adkins  
City Engineer Paul Mauser  
Planning and Community Development Director George Bendler  
Planning and Community Development Planner Bill Neville



## MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF SNOW HILL

February 7, 2024

Mr. Dallas Baker Jr., P.E.  
Director of Public Works  
Worcester County  
6113 Timmons Road  
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Dear Mr. Baker:

On behalf of the Mayor & Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland, we appreciate the opportunity to contribute our local priorities for inclusion in Worcester County's submission of needed projects to the Maryland Department of Transportation for the Consolidated Transportation Program for 2024. Our recommendations center around the following issues:

- Route #12 Flooding & Drainage

The entrance to Snow Hill on State Route #12 has been historically challenged for generations by flood waters caused by a rising Pocomoke River due to weather and tidal events that cover the road, reaching depths that require road closure to all traffic. It has sometimes been necessary, even, for the Town of Snow Hill emergency responders to station equipment on the western side of the bridge to be able to respond to needs in that portion of their service area. We realize the solution to this problem will be comprehensive and expensive but we must continue to encourage the State to make this a priority for public safety and to delay further deterioration of the road structure.

We would respectfully ask the State to consider the installation of high-resolution cameras at strategic locations, accessible to the public electronically, clearly displaying street conditions and flood conditions at the approach to the Rt. 12 bridge entering the Town. Having such a tool would give people real-time warning of challenges to bridge access and allow them time to find alternative routes to enter Snow Hill.

The Town also continues to experience historic flooding of Market Street and intersections in the area of Byrd Park and the Julia A. Purnell Museum. The overflows to the streets caused by the rise in water levels of the Pocomoke River cause safety concerns and challenges to property and health when heavy flooding occurs. Your attention to these concerns would be greatly appreciated by the entire Town.

One long-term but permanent solution to the problem would be the construction of a new crossing of the river, creating a by-pass of town, intersecting with State Route #113 north of Snow Hill. While this may generate discussion from some of the commercial interests

downtown, there would be a safety benefit there, as well, with the elimination of most of the heavy truck traffic that is currently forced to traverse downtown to the Rt.#12 bridge.

- Safe streets on State roads and highways

We again ask consideration by the State Highway Administration of new signage, painted crosswalks, speed bumps or humps in selected locations along roadways under their jurisdiction. We constantly receive questions and complaints from the public about pedestrian safety and speeding traffic along portions of Washington Street, Market Street, Church Street and others. The Town asks that SHA meet with our staff to review the State street system in Snow Hill and collaborate on ways to improve public safety at these locations.

- Signage warning heavy truck drivers about the use of "Jake Brakes" in Town limits

The Town government and Police Department are constantly receiving complaints from residents about the use of "Jake Brakes" and the noise and disruption they bring to the surrounding neighborhoods. We repeat our request that signs be placed on State routes entering Town, prohibiting the use of "Jake Brakes".



- Finally, we respectfully encourage our colleagues at the Department of Transportation to always honor the needs and requests of our sister communities across Worcester County.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to share our thoughts with the county commissioners and the State Department of Transportation. If we can provide any additional information or be of service to you going forward, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Michael Pruitt  
Mayor

Cc: Town Council





# Mayor & Council of Berlin

10 William Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811  
Phone 410-641-2770 Fax 410-641-2316  
www.berlinmd.gov

**Mayor**

Zack Tyndall

**Vice President**

Dean Burrell

**Council Members**

Steve Green

Jay Knerr

Shaneka Nichols

Jack Orris

**Town Attorney**

David Gaskill

**Town Administrator**

Mary Bohlen

January 23, 2024

Hon. Anthony "Chip" Bertino, President  
Worcester County Commissioners  
1 Market Street, Room 1103  
Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

President Bertino,

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and Council, citizens, and business community within the Town of Berlin to respectfully ask the Worcester County Commissioners to add the following projects to their list of State Transportation Priorities for 2024. The following projects are critical to improving the safety of our community and are not listed based prioritization of the requested project:

- PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ACROSS RT. 113 at RT. 376 (BAY STREET)
  - The creation of RT. 113 divided the Town of Berlin. Residents who live west of RT. 113 have access to the town's only grocery store, healthcare providers, Town Hall, and Worcester County library without having to cross a major highway. However, the residents who live east of RT. 113 lack safe access to these vital services. The intersection of RT 113. and RT. 376 is also perceived by residents as unsafe due to incidents from the past. Currently, this intersection is the only marked crosswalk along RT 113 in Berlin for residents to travel between neighborhoods. The Town of Berlin is requesting a pedestrian bridge to help improve pedestrian safety and increase interconnectivity between the neighborhoods and districts in town.
- TRAFFIC SIGNAL RT. 50 and RT. 818 (NORTH MAIN STREET)
  - The intersection of RT. 50 and RT. 818 (North Main Street) serves as one of the primary entrances to the Town of Berlin. Due to increased traffic along RT. 50 and growth in the area, the safety of this intersection is of concern for our community. The Town of Berlin requests the installation of a traffic light to improve safety for those who live, work in, and visit our town.
- SIDEWALKS RT. 346 (OLD OCEAN CITY BOULEVARD) - FROM SUNLIGHT LANE TO RT. 818 (MAIN STREET) and FROM RT. 818 (MAIN STREET) to RT. 377 (WILLIAM STREET)
  - The residents of Sunlight Lane currently do not have safe pedestrian access to Main Street. Residents are forced to walk on the roadway and share travel lanes with vehicular traffic.

- SIDEWALKS RT. 346 (OLD OCEAN CITY BOULEVARD) - FROM RT. 818 (MAIN STREET) to RT. 377 (WILLIAM STREET)
  - The Town of Berlin has several new businesses opening along the Rt. 346 corridor between Main Street and William Street. Unfortunately, there are no sidewalks in place along this section of roadway. Pedestrians are forced to share the roadway with vehicular traffic. Recently, the Town of Berlin police department and the Berlin Fire Company responded to an accident along this section of Rt. 346 where a pedestrian was hit by a vehicle.
- IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND SAFETY AT INTERSECTION OF RT. 818 (NORTH MAIN STREET) and RT. 346
  - Currently, the intersection of RT. 818 and RT. 346 is a four-way intersection with flashing lights. However, due to increased traffic at this intersection, confusion occurs and often creates unsafe conditions. The Town of Berlin would like to work towards a solution that improves traffic flow and safety at this intersection.
- CROSSWALKS – RT. 818, RT. 374, RT. 376, RT. 377, and RT. 346
  - The Town of Berlin has completed an inventory of sidewalks along the State Highways within municipal limits where yellow ADA pads already exist. In an effort to improve pedestrian safety and walkability, the Town of Berlin would like to have crosswalks painted connecting the yellow ADA pads that are already installed.

The Town of Berlin continues to be committed to working with the Maryland Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian safety along the state highways in town limits. We are prioritizing the addition of crosswalks along several state highways throughout the Town, including RT. 818, RT. 374, RT. 376, RT. 377, AND RT. 346. Many roadways already have ADA pads on the sidewalks, but lack painted crosswalks. Without painted crosswalks on the road, motorists do not give pedestrians the right of way, creating unsafe conditions for those on sidewalks.

The Town of Berlin greatly appreciates the Commissioner's consideration regarding the addition of these projects to the State Transportation Priorities in Worcester County for 2024.

Respectfully,

*Zack Tyndall*

Mayor Zack Tyndall  
 10 William Street  
 Berlin, MD 21811  
 (410) 641-1954  
[MayorZack@berlinmd.gov](mailto:MayorZack@berlinmd.gov)

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