

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND

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March 30, 2012

The Honorable Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P. O. Box 548, Mail Stop 200
Hanover, Maryland 21076

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Subject: Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Swaim-Staley:

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is pleased to submit the attached list of regional transportation priorities for the 2013 Consolidated Transportation Program. Our 2013 priorities reflect consistency, continuity and regional consensus. Once again, our regional transportation priorities have the endorsement of the boards of county commissioners of all three Southern Maryland counties—Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's—and were adopted by the membership of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland on March 29, 2012.

Our top regional priorities and regionally significant projects were all recommended in the 2008 final report of the Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs and our Transit Priority was called out in the Southern Maryland Transit Corridor Preservation Study (August 2010). The Commission's report is a strategic plan or "road map" for meeting the transportation needs of Southern Maryland's citizens and for maintaining the competitiveness of our regional economy for the next generation. We are pleased that the goals and analysis in the regional report reflect the needs of each of our counties and the region as a whole and provide a foundation for State transportation policy and infrastructure investment in Southern Maryland. We understand that \$85 million is estimated for the Thomas Johnson bridge design and \$10 million for the light rail / bus rapid transit next stage of planning study. We look forward to learning of the results of the 2013 session on the Transportation Trust fund appropriation. Our regional priorities are provided in the attached for your review and consideration.

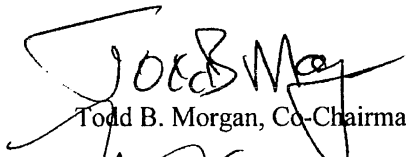
Our Top Regional Priority Highway Project is the Thomas Johnson Bridge/Route 2/4 upgrade to Route 235. This project will relieve commuter congestion, improve safety, help position the Patuxent River Naval Base for future BRAC realignments, improve emergency evacuations, and provide bicycle tourism opportunities between the Three Notch Trail and Solomon's Island.



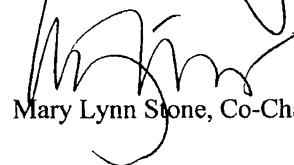
Our top Regional Priority Transit Project is the Southern Maryland Transit Corridor. With regard to mass transit, we appreciate the significant progress that was completed in 2010 by the Maryland Transit Administration on the transit corridor study, which defined a high-capacity transit alignment in the U.S. 301/MD 5 corridor from White Plains and Waldorf to the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station. We are pleased that both Charles County and Prince George's Counties governments support the results of the study. While Charles County continues to address the necessary comprehensive plan revisions to reflect the Southern Maryland Transit Corridor, we look forward to MTA's assistance in undertaking the follow-on analysis in FY 2013 that will be required to advance the planning phase for the corridor so the project can advance in the future to right of way preservation. As you know, we have the fastest growing commuter bus ridership in the State, serving the State's fastest growing region for the 3rd decade running.

It is vitally important that progress continue on the planning, engineering and right of way acquisition for these long-standing and urgently needed regional priorities during the coming year, in spite of the funding limitations which continue to be imposed by current revenue shortfalls. We are confident that the Maryland Department of Transportation will do everything possible to make sure that essential steps are included in the 2013 CTP that will position these priorities for future implementation when federal and state funds become available.

With sincere regards,



Todd B. Morgan, Co-Chairman



Mary Lynn Stone, Co-Chairman

CC: Delegate Sally Jameson, Chair, Southern Maryland Delegation
Commissioner Gerald W. Clark, President, Calvert County Commissioners
Commissioner Candace Quinn-Kelly, President, Charles County Commissioners
Commissioner Jack Russell, President, St. Mary's County Commissioners
Wayne E. Clark, Executive Director, Tri-County Council

Attachment

Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Priorities (CTP 2013-2018)
Approved March 29, 2012

Southern Maryland's Top Two Regional Priorities:

1. Highway Priority: Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge and Maryland Route 4 – Initiate the detailed design of the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement and highway corridor widening, including the upgrade of MD Route 4 and MD Route 235. Request includes \$85 million in construction funding for short-term intersection improvements. This project will relieve commuter congestion, improve safety, help position the Patuxent River Naval Base for future BRAC realignments, improve emergency evacuations, and provide bicycle tourism opportunities between the Three Notch Trail and Solomon's Island.
2. Transit Priority: Southern Maryland Transit Corridor – Initiate the planning phase of the federal project development process for high-capacity, fixed-route transit service, preferably light rail transit, in the MD 5/US 301 corridor from the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station in Prince George's County to Waldorf and White Plains in Charles County.

Southern Maryland's Regionally Significant Projects:

1. Construction of a controlled access highway option for US 301 in Waldorf, which balances the needs of the residential and business communities, while minimizing the impacts to cultural, social, and natural resources; and,
2. Enhanced Commuter Bus Services and further Park & Ride development in Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties.
3. The widening of MD Route 2/4 from the southern intersection of MD 765 (Main Street) at Industry Lane, to north of Auto Drive, widening to six lanes, with access controls and turning restrictions and an underpass in the vicinity of Fox Run Boulevard