



**Queen  
Anne's  
County**

**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY**

The Liberty Building  
107 North Liberty Street  
Centerville, MD 21617

e-mail: [QACCommissioners&Administrator@qac.org](mailto:QACCommissioners&Administrator@qac.org)

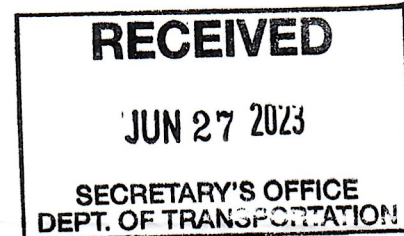
**County Commissioners:**

James J. Moran, At Large  
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1  
J. Patrick McLaughlin, District 2  
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3  
Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

County Administrator: *Todd R. Mohn, PE*  
Executive Assistant to County Commissioners: *Margie A. Houck*  
County Attorney: *Patrick Thompson, Esquire*

May 23, 2023

Mr. Paul J. Wiedefeld, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
Post Office Box 548  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland 21076-0548



**Re: Queen Anne's County Transportation Priority Letter  
FY 2024 – 2029 Consolidated Transportation Plan**

Dear Secretary Wiedefeld:

The “*safety and mobility for our citizens*” is the driving factor towards the establishment of our local transportation priorities. Attached is a listing of the Transportation priorities for Queen Anne's County for inclusion in the 2024-2029 Consolidated Transportation Plan.

Specifically, we wish to call your attention to our highest priorities which include funding for additional capacity for the Bay Bridge, critical transportation improvements on Kent Island due to Bay Bridge congestion, funding final engineering and construction of the US Route 50 & 213 interchange, installation of safety improvements along US 301, continued support of local transit and multimodal improvements.

**William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bay Bridge**

As projected in the Bay Bridge Life Cycle Cost Analysis and the Bay Crossing Study, traffic impacts and congestion within the Bay Bridge corridor will continue to deteriorate. The increase in traffic and limited capacity of the Bay Bridge as the single crossing of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland will result in continued and consistent delays if not addressed now. The delays on this primary transportation and freight corridor impacts the daily operations of many Maryland residents and businesses but impacts a disproportionate number of Queen Anne's County residents making it a top priority. It is vital to the safety and mobility of Queen Anne's County Citizens that continued steps be taken now to quickly complete the Bay Crossing Study Tier II NEPA process. Due to both the local and regional significance of this facility it is essential that the planning and funding for additional safety and capacity improvements continue and remain on schedule.

The NEPA process, design and construction of a future bay crossing will take years to complete, therefore, we must continue to evaluate and implement all possible options to actively manage congestion during peak travel times and future construction projects.

### **Maryland Route 18**

Recognizing that the NEPA study, design and funding improvements to the Bay Bridge will take time, Queen Anne's County has identified vital interim improvements in the Kent Island Transportation Plan to improve the movement of traffic on Kent Island. The Kent Island Transportation Plan is posted on our website at [www.qac.org/DocumentCenter/View/4460](http://www.qac.org/DocumentCenter/View/4460).

The top priority of the many improvements identified in the Kent Island Transportation Plan is to enhance the safety and capacity of Maryland Route 18. The plan specifically identifies the need to initiate comprehensive roadway and pedestrian improvements from Castle Marina Road to the Kent Narrows. As the only alternative route to using Route 50/301 this project will serve to increase mobility and eliminate routine congestion as well as seasonal traffic gridlock. By providing comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian improvements it will also provide residents an alternative to driving. The County recognizes and appreciates MDOT taking the first steps towards planning improvements by initiating the MD 18 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for MD 18. We are hopeful that this study will result in construction of improvements in the near future.

### **US Route 50 & 213 Interchange**

Construction of an interchange at US Route 50 & 213 is a long-standing priority for Queen Anne's County and has been listed in the CTP for over 25 years as part of the US 50 Ocean Gateway project to widen US 50 from Queenstown to Wye Mills. Having the corridor improvements on US 50 in place as outlined in the CTP is vital to prepare for the anticipated improvements associated with a new Bay Crossing. Land acquisition and design work has occurred in Wye Mills clearing the way for final engineering and construction of this interchange. As Route 404 is now dualized and thru traffic on Route 50 continues to increase, this overpass becomes essential to safely move traffic between Route 50 & 213 as well as providing safe access to Chesapeake College, our regional Community College serving five counties.

### **US 301**

There are many at-grade crossings along the US 301 corridor which are identified in our Highway Needs Inventory for access control improvements and interchanges. As traffic continues to increase on US 301 these improvements are essential and needed now to improve safety and reduce accidents. We urge MDOT to move these projects forward by funding the design and construction of the necessary safety improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities in this corridor.

### **Transit**

The Transit Division requests continued support of County Ride, our Locally Operated Transit System (LOTS). In January we started a "Ride Free in '23" campaign to grow ridership. We saw a significant increase in passenger trips in the second half of the fiscal year. County Ride is projected to finish FY23 at 22,375 which would almost double FY22 at 11,700 rides. We had 29,120 driver hours worked and those drivers drove 367,500 miles.

Additional funding is imperative to meet the increase in the demographic that notes the age shift that indicates that services of the older adult and disabled citizens will continue to increase. The Annual Transportation Plan for FY2024 includes capital funding for Preventative Maintenance. ARPA funding will provide for our vehicle replacement needs due at this time.

All funding provided through MTA is greatly appreciated as we continue to provide safe and reliable transportation to the citizens of Queen Anne's County.

### **Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements**

The Kent Island Transportation Plan identifies a pedestrian overpass crossing US 50/301 on Kent Island near the US 50 and MD 8 interchange. This pedestrian overpass would be a key link in connecting the Cross Island Trail with the South Island Trail on MD 8. The County is requesting MDOT assistance to review and approve a crossing location and fund the design of the pedestrian overpass or suggest an alternative location.

The County is also requesting continued support of our efforts to expand the Queen Anne's County bicycle and pedestrian network. The County is planning to continue our successful partnership with MDOT by providing local funds to leverage the support of State and Federal grants towards development of capital trail improvements. The Queen Anne's County trail system provides for an environmentally friendly alternative mode of transportation to connect our citizens to jobs, commercial areas, schools, parks and other services. Making vital connections in our trail system promotes a healthy alternative to driving, creates recreational opportunities and promotes tourism opportunities for visitors as well as an everyday transportation alternative for our residents.

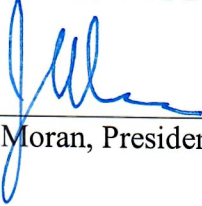
### **Regional Cooperation & Coordination**

As a member of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, we are very invested in cost effective, systematic, and regionally integrated approaches to addressing multimodal congestion, mobility, and safety in the Baltimore region. Therefore, we have identified several regional priorities:

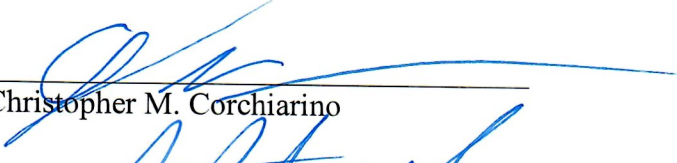
- To facilitate this interjurisdictional coordination, we would prioritize the Bay Bridge Corridor of US 50/30 from MD 404 in Queen Anne's County to I-97 in Anne Arundel County as a multi-jurisdiction corridor of State and Regional significance.
- We strongly support funding and implementing the regional transit corridors in the State's Regional Transit Plan and request MDOT advance planning, design, and operational funding in coordination with our local and regional transit systems to meet the goals and priorities in the Regional Transit Plan.
- Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) strategies offer cost effective approaches that leverage our investments in the existing transportation system. We strongly support funding and implementing TSMO strategies and are particularly interested in how these strategies can address the region's bottlenecks.
- We strongly support funding and implementing bike and pedestrian projects in the region.

The Queen Anne's County Board of Commissioners appreciates your consideration of our priorities and inclusion of them in the Consolidated Transportation Plan. We look forward to working with MDOT to implement these priority transportation projects.

**QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



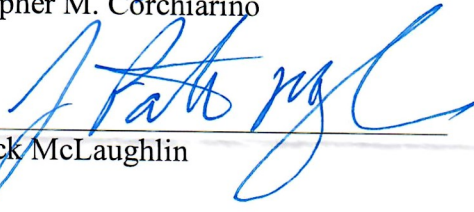
James J. Moran, President



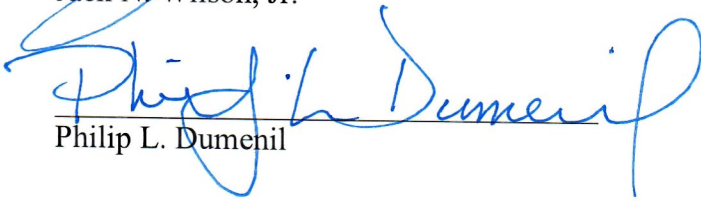
Christopher M. Corchiarino



Jack N. Wilson, Jr.



J. Patrick McLaughlin



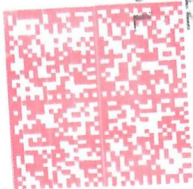
Philip L. Dumenil



THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
 OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY  
 THE LIBERTY BUILDING  
 107 NORTH LIBERTY STREET  
 CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND 21617

**RECEIVED**  
 JUN 27 2023  
 SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
 DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

BALTIMORE MD 212  
 21 JUN 2023 PM 6



quadrant  
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
 IMI  
**\$000.60**<sup>2</sup>  
 06/20/2023 ZIP 21617  
 043M31214294

US POSTAGE

*Mr. Paul J. Wedgefeld  
 Maryland Dept of Transportation  
 Harry R Hughes Dept of Transportation Bldg  
 7201 Corporate Center Drive  
 Annapolis, MD 21401*