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OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Worcester County

GOVERNMENT CENTER  
ONE WEST MARKET STREET • ROOM 1103  
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND  
21863-1195

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DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
ROSCOE R. LESLIE  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

March 1, 2022

Mr. James F. Ports, Jr., Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076

RE: State Transportation Priorities in Worcester County for 2022

Dear Secretary Ports:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Worcester County's transportation priorities at the upcoming Consolidated Transportation Program tour this coming fall. In advance of that meeting, listed 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 17 – 20, 2022.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 impassible 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.

7. 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 as a way 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.

8. CONSTRUCT APS/CPS PEDESTRIAN 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.

9. 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 in order 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.

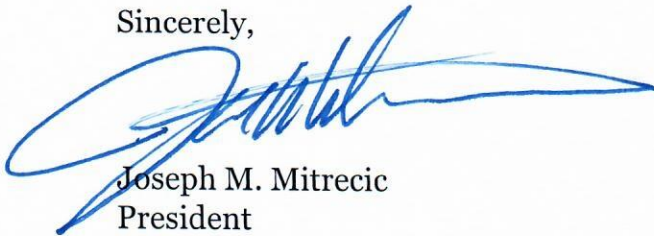
10. CONSTRUCT SHARED USE PATH ON MD 611 FROM US 50 TO ASSATEAGUE PARK

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.

Lastly, Worcester County has received the attached priority letters from Ocean City, Pocomoke City, 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 you should 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,



Joseph M. Mitrecic  
President

Attachments

cc: Weston Young, Chief Administrative Officer  
Joseph Parker, 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  
Terence McGean, City Manager, Town of Ocean City  
Jeremy Mason, City Manager, Pocomoke City  
Jay Meredith, District Engineer, SHA  
Senator Mary Beth Carozza  
Delegate Wayne Hartman  
Delegate Charles J. Otto



# Mayor & Council of Berlin

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

February 21, 2022

**Mayor**  
Zack Tyndall

**Vice President**  
Dean Burrell

**Councilmembers**  
Jay Knerr  
Shaneka Nichols  
Jack Orris  
Troy Purnell

**Town Attorney**  
David Gaskill

**Town Administrator**  
Jeffrey Fleetwood



Hon. Joseph Mitrecic, President  
Worcester County Commissioners  
1 Market Street, Room 1103  
Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

President Mitrecic,

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 2022. The following projects are critical to improving the safety of our community:

- **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 interconnectability between the neighborhoods and districts in town.
- **TRAFFIC SIGNAL RT. 113 and RT. 818 (SOUTH MAIN STREET)**
  - The intersection of RT. 113 and RT. 818 (South Main Street) meets the warrants as determined by the State Highway Administration for a traffic signal. Due to the impacts of the dualization of RT. 113, there is an increase in the volume of traffic traveling through the Town of Berlin. We are requesting the State of Maryland to prioritize and fund this project to improve the safety of this intersection.
- **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.

- ROUNDABOUT 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 see a roundabout installed at this intersection to improve safety.

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 2022.

Respectfully,



Zack Tyndall MBA, NRP  
Mayor, Town of Berlin



# TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

*The White Marlin Capital of the World*

February 19, 2022

RE: Consolidated Transportation Program Request 2022

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

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 at this time is the full dualization of Maryland Rt. 90 for its full length from Rt 50 to Rt 528. 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 the 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. Ocean City does not support the phased approach outlined in the 2021 letter. Ocean City does not believe that adding a center contra flow lane would be an effective or safe alternative. If the project must be phased, then it should be accomplished by fully dualizing segments of the highway, beginning with the segment between Rt 589 to Rt 528 and proceeding westward with future phases.

Ocean City's next priority is the replacement of the Rt 50 Drawbridge for the same reasons outlined in the 2021 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.

Ocean City fully supports all of Worcester County's other requests in the 2021 letter. We believe improving the intersection of Rt 90 and St Martin's Neck Road and the addition of the signal at St Martins Neck Rd in Bishopville are important to improve the movement of local traffic along this Route. We also recognize and fully support the need to dualize Rt 589 given the growth along this corridor.

**MAYOR**  
RICHARD W. MEEHAN

**CITY COUNCIL**

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*President*

ANTHONY J. DELUCA  
*Secretary*

PETER S. BUAS  
JOHN F. GEHRIG, JR.  
J. FRANKLIN KNIGHT  
LLOYD MARTIN  
MARK L. PADDACK

**CITY MANAGER**  
TERENCE J. MCGEAN, PE

**CITY CLERK**  
DIANA L. CHAVIS, CMC

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,

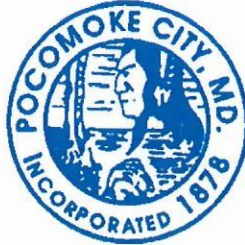
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terence McGean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terence J. McGean, PE  
City Manager

cc: Mayor Richard W. Meehan  
City Council Members  
Hal Adkins  
Paul Mauser  
Bill Neville



# POCOMOKE CITY, MARYLAND



Dallas Baker Jr., P.E.  
Director of Public Works  
Worcester County

Mr. Baker,

Thank you for giving Pocomoke City the opportunity to submit our requests to be included on the County's Consolidate Transportation Program. We would like to see the following items considered by Worcester County and MDOT:

- 1) Pocomoke City Drawbridge – Widely considered to be the iconic symbol of Pocomoke City, the drawbridge is in major need of a re-painting.
- 2) Improved lighting on the highway in the areas between the Old Snow Hill Road/Rt. 13 intersection and the Hardee's / Rt.13 and Rt. 113 intersection.
- 3) Improved lighting at the Stockton Road and Rt. 13 Intersection.

If you should require any additional information on these items, please contact me any time at 410-430-8599 or [jeremy@pocomokemd.gov](mailto:jeremy@pocomokemd.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mason".

Jeremy J. Mason  
City Manager  
Pocomoke city, MD

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
**Allegany County**  
GOVERNMENT CENTER  
ONE WEST MARKET STREET • ROOM 1103  
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Mr. James F. Ports, Jr., Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
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Hanover, MD 21076

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