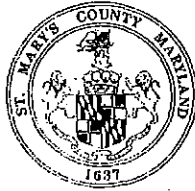


ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

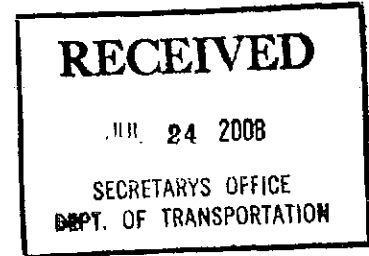
**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**



Francis Jack Russell, President
Kenneth R. Dement, Commissioner
Lawrence D. Jarboe, Commissioner
Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner
Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner

July 22, 2008

Mr. John D. Porcari, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548 Mail Stop 200
Hanover, MD 21076



Re: Transportation Program

Dear Secretary Porcari:

Thank you once again for the opportunity to submit St. Mary's County's priorities for your use in preparing the FY 2009 Consolidated Transportation Program. We also appreciate last year's efforts in finding an equitable alternative in generating revenue enhancements in lieu of raising the gas tax during this time of increased transportation costs. We are concerned about the effects of Senate Bill 46 (which repealed the computer services tax and reduced the share of the sales tax increase for Transportation projects from 6.5% to 5.3%), which we understand could result in an estimated loss of \$281M for Transportation projects over the next five (5) years. This may cause the need for another round of revenue enhancements which we will be sure to follow.

We appreciate the recent construction funding for the MD Route 246 Streetscape Project and the partial planning funding for the MD Route 4 corridor/Thomas Johnson Bridge and the MD Route 5 from MD Route 245 to MD Route 243 expansion projects. We trust that the balance of the planning funding can be allocated during 2009 through 2011, as shown in the adopted CTP. As we have discussed, multi-modal transportation will remain a regional high priority for Southern Maryland. Priority local projects that we would like to discuss with you at our September 2008 tour meeting include the following:

Highway Projects

MD Route 237 – Chancellors Run Road: This project remains the highest priority with respect to addressing access and safety issues and has been included in the Program for a significant period of time. We were pleased to see construction beginning and hope the project remains on schedule for a 2010 completion.

MD Route 5 – Point Lookout Road: The upgrade of the Point Lookout portion of this roadway to include shoulders and bicycle accommodations will greatly improve safety, accommodate visitors to the County's most prominent park, and provide roadside enhancements along this primary evacuation route for the southernmost portion of the



County. With this project currently in the Secondary Development and Evaluation Program, the Board previously selected the \$3.8M breakout project (south of Camp Brown Road to Ranger Station) described by Mr. Pedersen as our priority, interim improvement for this corridor, which includes the necessary widening of the Scotland Beach intersection. We request the remainder of engineering planned for 2009 be made available during the coming year, with right-of-way and construction following in the near term.

Point Lookout Road, from MD Route 243 to MD Route 245: Thank you for placing this project within the Secondary Development Program for widening and multi-lane reconstruction. The planning study should continue to be fully funded for completion in FY 2008. As requested, short-term measures should be considered to eliminate the safety issues along the MD Route 5 corridor, particularly at the Moakley Street intersection. Please complete planning study in 2009 and consider extending the scope of the study area along MD 5 past the Leonardtown High School to address roadway width and congestion issues.

MD Route 5, from MD Route 246 to MD Route 249: Included in the recently adopted Transportation Plan is the identified need to address this section of roadway, which experiences peak-hour delays at this time. After review of the conceptual drawings provided to us, it would appear that the section between MD Route 246 and MD Route 249 is a high priority due to current levels of congestion experienced in this corridor. At our request, a conceptual plan has been developed by SHA staff for this project. Since our Pegg Road project has been funded for project planning, any additional consideration of this portion of MD Route 5 will be made upon completion of the Pegg Road study during FY 2009.

Thomas Johnson Bridge/ MD Route 4: As you are aware, a project of this magnitude can take 20 years or more from planning inception to completion. Since our County-wide Transportation Plan predicts severe congestion in this vital County gateway by that time, it is imperative that the remainder of planning funding programmed over the next two (2) years be provided. We also recommend that alternates such as ferry service be explored as part of the planning process. Thank you for including the MD Route 4/MD Route 235 intersection and a hiker/biker connection between our Three Notch Trail project and Solomon's Island in the planning study. We are also reviewing alternative routes (i.e., FDR Boulevard Extended) that developers could construct to divert traffic from the intersection, but realize that even with those improvements, an interchange will be necessary. This intersection and the MD 235 corridor remains one of the high profile and primary entryways to the Naval Air Station and visitor gate.

MD Route 234 – MD Route 242: On June 23, 2005, our staff met with the SHA's representatives and discussed the failing level of service at this intersection and the evening delays. Your staff's recommendation to include left-turn lanes on the MD Route 234 approaches to the intersection will help to reduce peak-hour delays, and we look forward to seeing the result of this improvement in the near future.

Trails and Bikeways: As the bicycling community continues to grow within St. Mary's County, we have received an increasing number of requests for bicycle accommodations along our roadways. As you are aware, our adopted County-wide Transportation Plan analyzed all available bicycle plans to arrive at a County-wide plan. We are including paved shoulders in our overlay program and are requiring developers to provide facilities along their frontage. We are requesting that MDOT participate in this effort through their development review process as well as the CTP. Improved shoulders should be included in the System Preservation program and special projects. Some of the higher priority State roadways with shoulders in need of improvement include MD Route 6 from MD Route 5 to All Faith Church Road, MD Route 245 from MD Route 5 to Baldrige Street, MD Route 5 from MD Route 243 to MD Route 245, MD Routes 236, 243, 272, and 244. We are requesting that staff discuss priorities with SHA staff during their quarterly meetings. Your continued support of the Three Notch Trail within the Transportation Enhancement Program is also requested.

MD Route 712: Although traffic volumes have not reached the point of moving the project from the Needs Inventory into Preliminary Planning, we have received preliminary agreement with the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in identifying a future 120-foot right-of-way corridor which will minimize the impact to the residential properties to the south of existing MD Route 712. We appreciate your staff's efforts in preparation of a right-of-way plat that will effect the needed property transfer in the near future.

Pegg Road: Thank you for your Department's willingness to assist in improving the SHA approaches to Pegg Road. This participation, along with County and developer funding, will be vital in the County's ability to provide this improvement to regional and emergency travel for the Lexington Park to Leonardtown corridor in a cost-effective manner.

Resurfacing and Rehabilitation

MD Route 5 from Loveville to Leonardtown: Please investigate the need to overlay this section due to rutting and traffic safety concerns.

Community Safety and Enhancements

MD Route 5 in Leonardtown: Thank you for programming the MD Route 5 project in Leonardtown for construction in FY 2008. We are pleased with the progress made so far and will review the site with you during the July 17 bus tour of Leonardtown.

MD Route 246 in Lexington Park: Thank you again for programming construction funding for this project for FY 2009. We are working with your staff to obtain easements at this time and have programmed funds for this year to complete the acquisition so that the project can quickly proceed to construction.

Transit Projects

Western Route: Thank you for providing not only funding for the long-awaited Western Route to serve our growing rural population, but also for funding the Mobility Manager grant position which will also be assisting our new Department of Human Services in coordinating transportation services between multiple providers.

Charlotte Hall Park and Ride Lot: As stated in our August 7, 2007, letter, the Board of County Commissioners is supportive of the Charlotte Hall Park and Ride location in New Market as the first priority. We are looking forward to finalizing an access arrangement that will minimize the impact on the MD Route 6 community.

Sidewalk Retrofit Program

MD Route 5 - Golden Beach Road: Our staff has completed our phase of this project, and it is understood that the SHA is diligently working towards the second phase (crosswalk marking and pedestrian equipment). We anticipate that this project will be completed in the very near future.

MD Route 5 – Mohawk Drive: We will be submitting a 2009 request in the near future to provide a project similar to the Golden Beach Road project at the MD Route 5 – Mohawk Drive intersection to provide pedestrian access from the community to the Three Notch Trail, which is nearing completion.

Md Route 4, from MD Route 235 to Wildewood Parkway: We are considering a retrofit project to assist Wildewood residents and residents of the Walden Sierra Facility in accessing shopping areas along MD Route 235. We will be seeking your staff's input on the feasibility of this project, especially with regard to the possible effects of the future widening of MD Route 4. Similarly, along with the Town of Leonardtown, we could request a sidewalk connection from the College of Southern Maryland to the Governmental Center on the south side of MD Route 245.

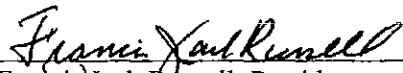
General Aviation Grants

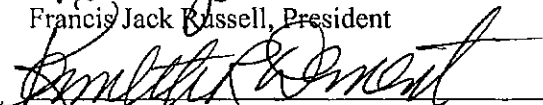
St. Mary's County Regional Airport: We thank you for the Grant Offer utilized to conduct the Environmental Assessment associated with the approved Airport Master Plan and this year's Grant Offer for the respective Wetland Mitigation project. Future project funding will enhance our ability to provide regional transportation infrastructure, which includes the business and corporate communities that will also compliment the Department of Defense activities.

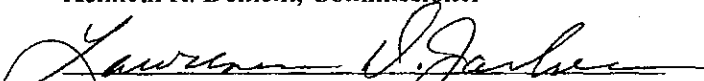
Mr. John D. Porcari, Secretary
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July 22, 2008

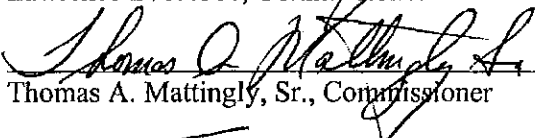
Finally, we would appreciate a response to our February 12, 2008, correspondence regarding our conditional acceptance of several surplus sections of State roadways for permanent maintenance by County forces. Also, we understand that streetscaping in the MD Route 5 median in Charlotte Hall will require a sponsor for maintenance, and we will attempt to assist the District Engineer in identifying such a partner in the near future. We look forward to discussing the continued progression on these local and regional projects in the near future. Please extend our gratitude to Governor O'Malley for all his support.

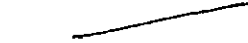
Sincerely,
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BOCC/GAB/JG/dg

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cc: Senator Roy P. Dyson ✓
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr. ✓
Delegate John L. Bohanan, Jr. ✓
Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell ✓
J. Harry Norris, Leonardtown Mayor ✓
Robert Swann, Interim Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
John Savich, County Administrator ✓
Robert B. Schaller, Director, Department of Economic and Community Development
George A. Erichsen, P.E., Director, Department of Public Works & Transportation ✓
Denis Canavan, Director, Land Use & Growth Management ✓
Jackie Fournier, Transportation Manager ✓

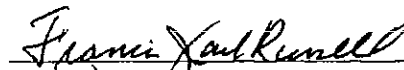
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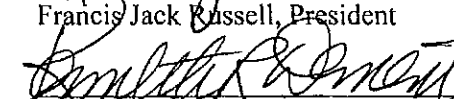
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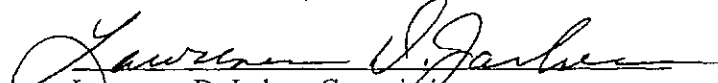
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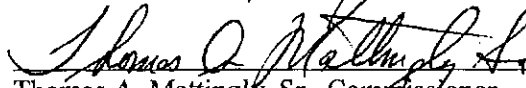
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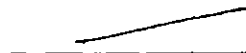
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