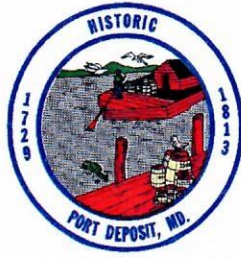


Town of Port Deposit

64 S. Main Street
Port Deposit, MD 21904
410.378.2121
www.portdeposit.org

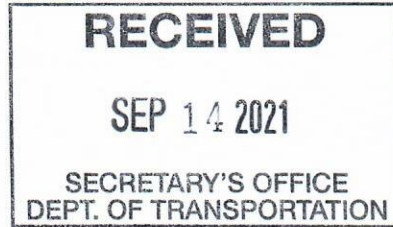


Robert Kuhs
Mayor

Vicky Rinkerman
Town Administrator

September 7, 2021

Mr. Greg Slater, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076-0548



RE: FY2023 Port Deposit Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Slater:

On behalf of the Council, I would like to take this opportunity to provide Cecil County information relative to transportation priorities for the Town of Port Deposit.

The Town of Port Deposit is located between the Susquehanna River and Norfolk Southern Railroad to the West and a 250' granite cliff to the East. Maryland Route 222 serves as our Main Street through Port Deposit for travelers and visitors from Route 1 to the Interstate 95 exits, Hollywood Casino, and Route 40. Our historic industrial town has unique characteristics and having a State highway serve as our Main Street has created challenges as we try to reduce flooding and meet the growing demand for safer vehicle transportation, as well as provide safe bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The Town is seeking innovative solutions to our challenges.

As part of the Town's initiative to improve economic conditions and support development, the State Highway Administration (SHA) started a two-year storm drain improvement project in February 2017 on MD Route 222/Main Street. SHA spent over five years planning and developing this project. **In August 2018, the storm drain project was terminated for convenience due to issues encountered during the first phase of construction on North Main Street.** It is our understanding that the project will require additional right-of-way acquisitions and plats, field borings, test pits, and coordination with Norfolk Southern Railroad officials and the project is now under review and being re-designed. **Due to the initial work that was started and not completed on the first outfall and associated drain lines on North Main Street in 2017, the Town has experienced an increase in water drainage issues and flooding in this area.** Due to potential development of farm property and the Bainbridge property on the granite cliff, it is imperative that the existing deteriorating terra-cotta drain pipes, catch basins and outfalls on Route 222 be replaced. The funding for this project was re-allocated and in order to proceed, it will need to go through the funding allocation process again. The State of Maryland has spent well over \$1 million in engineering fees, initial construction, and the purchase of right-of-way acquisitions and easements. Storm drain improvements to Route 222/Main Street need to be completed to reduce the flood risk and potential damage to historic properties. We respectfully request assistance to ensure that this project is fully funded and completed in phases if necessary over several years.

The granite cliff imposes an increased flood concern based on the frequency and intensity of rain storms due to climate change. "Flash floods" have occurred the last two years, and it is our understanding that they will continue to increase. Stormwater rushes from the cliff to Main Street via several natural springs and open streams that flow to the Susquehanna River through viaducts under Main Street, as well as through Rock Run stream and a tributary of this stream along Granite Avenue and Race Street. There are numerous drains located throughout Main Street that carries stormwater to outfalls at the River. With the increase intensity of rain storms, there has been an increase in stormwater runoff from the cliff that carries debris and sediment that continually clogs the viaducts and stormwater culverts and drains. Innovative stormwater management strategies and design are needed to address the "water quantity" issue from flash floods and proposed development on the granite cliff.

The completion of the storm drain project would provide a perfect opportunity for the State and Town to develop a supporting streetscape plan. The streetscape plan would identify innovative traffic control measures to reduce speeding and tractor trailer traffic on Main Street, as well as provide safe bicycle, pedestrian and historically sensitive accommodations and infrastructure to meet the growing needs of our community. The residential and economic development boost from these projects would be strengthened by innovative, safe vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian connections in our community for residents and visitors to enjoy our historic culture, restaurants, shops, and waterfront amenities.

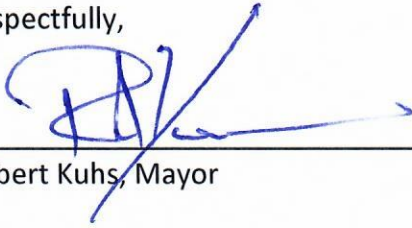
Another issue we struggle with is finding a solution to the tractor trailer traffic that persistently use weight restricted Route 222 as the thoroughfare from Route 1 to the I95 exits and Route 40. Route 222 is **NOT** a designated tractor trailer ruck route. The majority of our historic homes along Main Street are literally located directly behind the sidewalk and several homes have been struck and damaged by these tractor trailers. Additionally, the town has experienced fatal tractor trailer accidents from brake failure coming down the hill into Town at the entrance to Marina Park and Center Street. One accident was a propane tanker that failed to stop at the intersection of Center Street and Main Street that became lodged under the condominium building on the waterfront. This negligence of truck drivers to obey the law endangers our residents, visitors and children. Any assistance you could provide to enhance traffic control measures and ensure transportation companies and drivers obey the weight restriction regulations to reduce the impact from tractor trailers on Main Street would be appreciated.

The Town respectfully request the following transportation priorities be identified for the Town of Port Deposit:

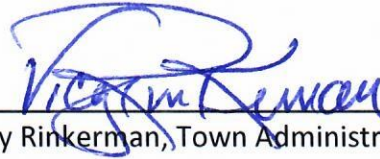
1. Funding for the storm drain improvement project on MD Route 222. Project was terminated for convenience and will need to go through the funding process again;
2. Innovative stormwater management strategies to reduce the risk of flash floods on Main Street, Granite Avenue, and Race Street from rain storms;
3. Streetscape Plan on Main Street to improve safe vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout Main Street;
4. Enhance traffic control measures for improved vehicle transportation that reduces speeding and impacts from tractor trailer traffic on weight restricted Route 222;

Thank you for your consideration of supporting and including our transportation priorities, and I am available to discuss this further at your convenience. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership on future projects in the Town of Port Deposit.

Respectfully,



Robert Kuhs, Mayor

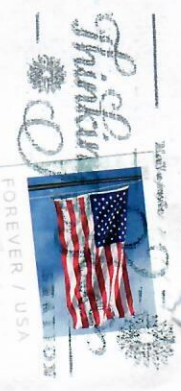


Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

cc: Cecil County State Delegation
Cecil County Executive Danielle Hornberger
Cecil County Administrator Dan Schneckenburger

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Department of Transportation
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