



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive
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April 12, 2017

The Honorable Pete Rahn
Office of the Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: FY 2018 Howard County Priority Letter

Dear Secretary Rahn:

Please accept the following "Priority Letter" from Howard County. The letter includes a list of transportation projects Howard County is recommending be included and funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) FY 2018-2023 Consolidated Transportation Program and also includes requests for technical and policy support. The projects requested for funding are listed in priority order, are "Major Capital Projects" as defined by MDOT guidance, and are consistent with the Maryland Transportation Plan.

Thank You and Acknowledgments

Before listing our requests, please accept our thanks and appreciation for prior and ongoing State funding for the following projects:

- Widening of US 29 from Seneca Drive to MD 175

MD 32 Corridor Improvements

- Phase 1: Dualization of MD 32 from MD 108 to Linden Church Road
- Phase 2: Linden Church Road to I-70, including MD 32/MD 144 intersection improvements
- Phase 3: Evaluation of the widening MD 32 north of I-70 to the Carroll County line
- Design and construction improvements at the US 1 and Kit Kat Road intersection
- US 29: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Planning for enhanced express bus service to Silver Spring along the US 29 BRT corridor

We also wish to thank you for the valued technical assistance provided by MDOT staff, especially the extensive assistance from the Maryland Transit Administration and the State Highway Administration on the following projects:

- US 40 at Rogers Avenue intersection
- I-95 Noise Walls in Elkridge
- US 1 at Montevideo Road intersection
- Blandair Park interchange on MD 175

Requests for Funding

The following recommendations are the result of review and input by County staff from several departments and offices, as well as by elected and appointed officials. Input also included an extensive public involvement process, including a public survey with over 1,400 responses, and over 300 unique written comments and a public meeting held on February 21, 2017. The results of the survey and public meeting materials can be found at: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Transportation/2018-Priority-Letter>

Capital & Construction Projects

1. US 29 from the Middle Patuxent River to Seneca Drive, widening including access improvements to the Rivers Edge Community, and accommodations for BRT.
2. Transit Capital Improvements:
 - Purchase rolling stock (buses) to replace vehicles that have exhausted their useful life to maintain a fleet with a state of good repair and to expand service on a number of the most traveled fixed routes
 - Rolling stock, road and signal improvements and development of high quality BRT stations in Downtown Columbia and future stations for the US 29 BRT system
3. US 1 Sidewalk: Construct sidewalk along US 1 southbound in the median between North Laurel Road and the Prince George's County line
4. MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Ten Mills Road
5. MD 100 and MD 103: Replacement of the existing interchange

Design & Engineering Projects

1. *I-70 Corridor*
 - I-70: US 29 to US 40; widen one lane in each direction
 - Upgrade/reconstruct the I-70/Marriottsville Road interchange
 - Design and implement I-70/US 29 interchange capacity enhancements

MD 175 Corridor

2. MD 175: Evaluate the improvement of existing access points into Columbia Gateway Drive, including a third access point through the potential extension of MD 108 across MD 175 into Columbia Gateway Drive and direct access to Columbia Gateway Drive from I-95
3. MD 175: US 1 to Snowden River Parkway; continued comprehensive traffic modeling leading to design alternatives including the US 1/ MD 175 and US 1/I-95 interchanges

4. Pedestrian, Bicycle, and ADA Access and Safety Improvements: Design and construct sidewalks, pedestrian safety improvements, bicycle safety improvements and final design and construction of the short term network projects in Howard County's Bicycle Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plans. Specifically, we will be requesting state grant funding for the following projects:
 - Conduct planning for pedestrian and bicycle access into the Columbia Gateway area
 - Finalize design of the Downtown Columbia to Stevens Forest Road connector
 - Finalize design of pedestrian and bicycle improvements along Dobbin and McGaw Roads
 - Finalize design of the North Laurel Connections project to join Savage and Laurel in a connected bicycle and pedestrian network
5. MD 108: Guilford Road to Trotter Road; design and construct pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, and streetscape improvements
6. MD 175: US I to Dorsey Run Road; widening and reconstruction including final design and construction of the US I/MD 175 interchange
7. MD 103 at US 29: Addition of a third lane along MD 103 onto the ramp towards US 29 northbound
8. Traffic Signal Back-up Generators: Evaluate and plan a system for developing a back-up generator installation program at key state highway traffic signals within Howard County
9. Noise Walls: Evaluate, design, and construct noise walls at Dumhart Road, at the southwest corner of I-95 and the MD 216 interchange

Requests for Technical Assistance and Support

We would like to request MDOT's cooperation and technical support and assistance for several important county led projects and initiatives on state roads and highways. These projects reflect the county's desire to advance projects in coordination with the state to ensure timely and effective project delivery. These projects are:

- Investigating safety and congestion issues on the MD 99 corridor between Marriottsville Road and US 29/MD 99 intersection

US 1 Corridor

- US 1: Development of a safety audit for US 1

We want to draw your attention again to the spike in the number of pedestrians killed by cars in the US 1 corridor during 2016. Six people—a higher annual number than ever before—were hit and killed by cars in this rapidly growing, evolving and economically important area. We strongly urge you to support and enhance efforts and initiatives to put safety first for the State's and the County's vulnerable road users and the development of safe infrastructure for all.

- US 1: MD 175 to just north of Montevideo Road; phased arterial highway reconstruction including pedestrian, transit and streetscape improvements

- US 1: Construct intersection improvements along US 1 at MD 103 (Meadowridge Road), and Whiskey Bottom Road
- Widening of the Marriottsville Road Bridge over I-70 to enable future widening of Marriottsville Road north to MD 99 and south to US 40
- Study of a potential transitway that would connect Downtown Columbia; Oakland Mills, and Columbia Gateway Office Park, including a possible transit bridge over US 29
- Construction of safety and aesthetic improvements to the existing pedestrian-bicycle bridge over US 29 between Downtown Columbia and Oakland Mills
- North South Connector/Jug Handle: a major collector planned to connect the US 29/Broken Land Parkway interchange to Little Patuxent Parkway, including a spur off the existing northbound US29 off-ramp pursuant to the Downtown Columbia Plan
- MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Centennial Lane
- Designating Downtown Columbia as a Transit Oriented Development

Other State Initiatives

1. The County urges the state to fully fund and implement MDOT's MARC Growth and Investment Plan improvements on the Camden Line, including track improvements, rolling stock and additional service.
2. The County fully supports the SHA's I-95 Active Traffic Management project. We urge the MDOT to continue to advance it.

Both of these projects are needed to ensure safe and efficient travel throughout the region and Howard County.

Thank you for considering Howard County's priority transportation needs.

Sincerely,



Allan H. Kittleman
County Executive

Attachments

Thank you for your positive endorsement of Howard County's state transportation projects and priorities.

COUNTY COUNCIL



Jon Weinstein, Council Chairperson

HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION



Senator Guy J. Guzzone, Chair

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair

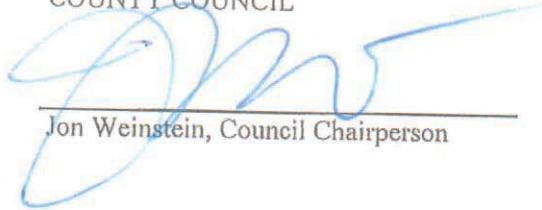
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Howard County Delegation
Howard County Council Members
James F. Ports Jr., Deputy Secretary for Operations, MDOT
R. Earl Lewis Jr., Deputy Secretary for Policy, Planning, & Enterprise Services, MDOT
Tyson Byrne, Manager of Regional Planning, MDOT
Gregory Slater, Administrator, SHA
Eric Beckett, Chief, Regional & Intermodal Planning Division, SHA
John Concannon, Acting District Engineer, District 7 SHA
Paul W. Comfort, Administrator, MTA
Suhair al Khatib, Deputy Administrator & Chief Planning, Programming & Engineering Officer,
MTA
Elizabeth Kreider, Director, Local Transit Support, MTA
Todd Lang, Director of Transportation, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, Howard County Government

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