



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013

---

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive  
cball@howardcountymd.gov

April 1, 2019

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

**Re: FY 2020 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 2020-2025 Consolidated Transportation Program and includes requests for technical and policy support. The projects requested for funding are listed in priority order.

Howard County also wants to highlight and support MDOT's efforts to:

- Develop a strong Regional Transit Plan through regional stakeholder input that aims to address key corridor gaps in the existing regional transit system.
- Manage the transportation network using Transportation Systems Management & Operations strategies to deliver data driven innovative solutions to address safety, congestion and travel time reliability on state roads in Howard County, including the I-95 Active Traffic Management project.
- Improve capacity and service on the Camden Line via MTA's MDOT's MARC Growth and Investment Plan, including track improvements, new rolling stock and additional service.

**Thank You and Acknowledgments**

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

- *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

- Construction of 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.
- Feasibility study for the Ellicott City/Oella Pedestrian Bridge.

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

- Investigation of safety and congestion issues on the MD 99 corridor between Marriottsville Road and US 29/MD 99 intersection
- US 1 Safety Evaluation
- 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 meeting held on February 4, 2019, a survey, and written comments. The results of the survey, a summary of comments and public meeting materials can be found at: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Transportation/Transportation-Projects/Priority-Letter>

### **Design & Engineering Projects**

1. *I-70 Corridor*
  - 1-70: 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
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, ADA access and safety improvements: design and construct pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements in Howard County's pedestrian master and corridor plans. The county is specifically requesting the state cooperate, support, and fund development of projects identified in the US 1 safety evaluation, including providing safe crossing for pedestrians at the US 1/Guilford Road intersection.
5. MD 108: Guilford Road to Trotter Road; design and construct pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, and streetscape improvements.

6. MD 175: US 1 to Dorsey Run Road; widening and reconstruction including final design and construction of the US 1/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. Noise Walls: Design, and construct noise walls at Dumhart Road, at the southwest corner of I-95 and the MD 216 interchange.

### **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, signal improvements and development of high quality BRT stations in Downtown Columbia and future stations for the US 29 BRT system, including funding for Howard County's coordinated efforts with Montgomery County's Flash system to advance enhanced transit service and linkages between Downtown Columbia and Montgomery County.
3. Bike Howard Express: Funding, support and cooperation to implement Howard County's comprehensive strategy to significantly improve bicycle infrastructure during the next 3 years, including the North Laurel connections bicycle route from Savage to North laurel, new shared-use pathways providing bicycle access into Downtown Columbia, Columbia Gateway and along Dobbin Road, and nearly 14 miles of bike lanes and wayfinding on county roads, including important crossings of state roads.
4. US 1 Sidewalk: Construct sidewalk along US 1 southbound in the median between North Laurel Road and the Prince George's County line.
5. MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Ten Mills Road.
6. MD 100 and MD 103: Replacement of the existing 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:

- US 1 Projects
  - Advancing the Route 1 Corridor Master Plan.
  - MD 175 to just north of Montevideo Road; phased arterial highway reconstruction including pedestrian, transit and streetscape improvements.
  - Construct intersection improvements along US 1 at MD 103 (Meadowridge Road) and Whiskey Bottom Road.
  - Construction of a traffic signal at the entrance of future high school number 13 on US 1.
- 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.
- Continue to support planning for a transitway connecting Downtown Columbia; Oakland Mills, and Columbia Gateway Office Park, including a possible transit bridge over US 29.
- 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 US 29 off-ramp pursuant to the Downtown Columbia Plan.
- MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Centennial Lane.
- Designation of Downtown Columbia and Dorsey MARC station area as Transit Oriented Developments.
- Design and implementation of road capacity improvements at Broken Land Parkway/Snowden River Parkway and MD 32, including bicycle and pedestrian access improvements to park and ride lots.
- A study to measure the impact and viability of adjusting MTA Commuter Bus 201's route to improve access to BWI Airport via the MD 32/Broken Land Parkway Park and Ride Lot and Downtown Columbia.

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

Sincerely,



Calvin Ball  
County Executive

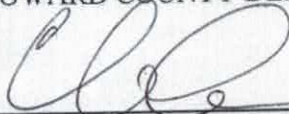
Thank you for your positive endorsement of Howard County's state transportation projects and priorities.

COUNTY COUNCIL




Christiana Mercer Rigby, Council Chairperson

HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION



Clarence K. Lam, Chair



Terri L. Hill, Chair

Copy:

Howard County Delegation  
Howard County Council Members  
Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer, Howard County Government  
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, MDOT SHA  
Eric Beckett, Chief, Regional & Intermodal Planning Division, MDOT SHA  
John Concannon, District Engineer, District 7 MDOT SHA  
Puskar P. Kar, Assistant District Engineer, District 7 MDOT SHA  
Kevin Quinn, Administrator, MTA  
Holly Arnold, Director, Office of Planning and Programming, MTA  
Travis Johnston, Director, Local Transit Support, MTA  
Todd Lang, Director of Transportation Planning, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

File: CTP Priority Letter FY 2020-to FY 2025