



March 7, 2017

**Copy for  
George Sparling**

The Honorable Peter K. Rahn, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
P.O. Box 548  
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: FY 2018 Transportation Program Priorities

Dear Secretary Rahn:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit St. Mary's County's priorities for your use in preparing the FY 2018 Consolidated Transportation Program.

The County Commissioners are very concerned with the effect the "Road Kill Bill" (HB 1013) will have on the Program, especially in light of the scores we have received for projects within St. Mary's County. The scoring is unfairly skewed to favor transit projects, and projects within large population areas. We have urged our Delegation to support efforts to repeal the Law as soon as possible. MDOT staff concedes that any input we may have in the scoring would not raise the scores to the level that would qualify for funding.

As in recent years, we have limited the number of priority projects in light of current funding challenges and the significant amount of transportation needs throughout the state. St. Mary's County has three Major Highway Projects for your consideration. Consistent with the Chapter 725 process, we have included copies of the project questionnaires and maps, and have copied our request to the local delegation for their endorsement.

#### **MAJOR HIGHWAY PROJECTS**

1. **Thomas Johnson Bridge/ MD Route 4**

This project will relieve commuter congestion, improve safety, help position the Base for future BRAC, improve emergency evacuation, and provide bicycle tourism opportunities between the Three Notch Trail and Solomon's Island. We appreciate the funding for short-term intersection improvements, which is now complete, as well as the commitment to advance the MD Route 235 Service Drive to serve as an alternate access point for Woodland Acres community. It is our understanding that the project should be constructed in 2018. Funding for design of the replacement bridge, MD Route 4 dualization, and capacity improvements at the MD Rt. 235 intersection is our highest priority.

2. **MD Route 5 (Point Lookout Road) from MD Route 243 (Newtowne Neck Rd.) to MD Route 245 (Hollywood Rd)**

Thank you for advancing the improvements at the Moakley Street intersection to the Secondary Construction Program, with construction funded in 2019. It is requested that the construction funds for this break-out project, which are currently spread over many years, be consolidated into the 2018 to 2023 program. In addition, design funding for the balance of the corridor improvements is requested in FY 18.

3. **MD Route 5, from MD Route 246 (Great Mills Road) to MD Route 249 (Piney Point Road)**  
Thank you for programming the full project design funding through FY 2020. Subsequent phases should be added as funding and priorities allow. We are somewhat concerned that no construction funding is shown in the five year program, and trust it will be added once design is underway. We request that the selected alternative include bicycle and pedestrian continuity throughout the project.

For subsequent phases, please note that traffic congestion on MD Route 5 between Flat Iron Road/Indian Bridge Road and MD Route 249 creates safety concerns for those entering and exiting Holy Face Church, Holy Face Rectory and Little Flower School. We continue to request that a high priority be placed on evaluating whether these three entrances could be improved by adding a left turn lane and extending the additional right lanes that are already in place. By considering less costly near-term improvements, the more costly improvements may be deferred for many years.

#### **MINOR HIGHWAY PROJECTS**

1. **MD Route 234 (Budd's Creek Road) - MD Route 242 (Colton's Point Road)**  
Thank you for re-programming this roundabout project, which will reduce congestion and improve traffic safety. Construction is now beginning.
2. **MD Route 5, south of Camp Brown Road to Ranger Station**  
We appreciate your continued commitment to this safety project, and look forward to engineering continuing during the present year. Construction funding for this project is shown for 2019, but this Board continues to feel that the MD Route 5 project in Great Mills is a higher priority.
3. **Overlay Program**  
We are happy to see a continued level of increased funding for badly needed overlay projects. A continued higher than average funding effort, combined with lower asphalt prices will be needed to restore Maryland's roads to their once Nation leading condition. Thank you for maintenance paving we requested on MD Route 238, which has been completed.
4. **Trails and Bikeways**  
At the request of our increasing bicycling community, we have arrived at a County-wide Plan and are including paved shoulders in our overlay program and 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 and east on MD Route 245, MD Route 5 from MD Route 243 to MD Route 245, MD Routes 236, 243, 272, and 244. We are requesting that staff continue to discuss priorities with SHA staff during their quarterly meetings.

Our Department of Economic Development will be leading an effort to provide Bike Route signing on specific routes to encourage bicycle tourism and help attract and maintain a talented work force to the area.

Your continued support of the Three Notch Trail within the Transportation Enhancement Program is also appreciated. Construction of Phase VI has been substantially completed. Please complete the pedestrian crossing signalization at the Golden Beach Road intersection with MD Route 5 in the near future.

The Honorable Peter K. Rahn

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## MINOR SIDEWALK RETROFIT PROGRAM

### MD Route 245 from MD 5 to Leonards Grant Parkway, and MD Route 4 from MD Route 235 to Wildewood Parkway

Thank you for completing the MD Route 245 sidewalk retrofit project between MD Route 5 and Leonard Hall Drive. We support the Town's request to extend the project to the Leonard's Grant Parkway intersection as Phase 2 of the project due to the major residential development, a new elementary school, as well as the future construction of a middle school, athletic fields and a new library/senior activity center which is currently under design. We also request a retrofit project along MD Route 4 to assist Wildewood residents and residents of the Walden Sierra Facility in accessing shopping areas along MD Route 235, and our staff has been coordinating with District 5 staff to scope the project.

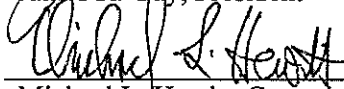
We look forward to receiving the CTP and to discussing the continued progression on these local and regional projects during the fall pre-tour and tour meetings. Your support and responsiveness to the transportation needs of St. Mary's County would be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

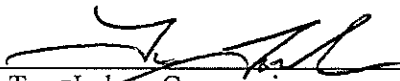
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY



James R. Guy, President



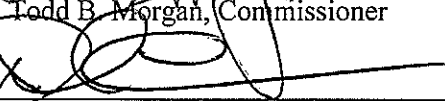
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner



Tom Jarboe, Commissioner



Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner



John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

#### Attachments

CSMC/JG/cf/consents2017/67

cc: Senator Steven M. Waugh Delegate

Deborah C. Rey

Delegate Gerald W. Clark

Delegate Matt Morgan

Mayor Dan Burris, Town of Leonardtown

Ms. Corren Johnson, District 5 Engineer

Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, Office of Planning &  
Capital Programming, MDOT

Mr. Matt Baker, Regional Planner, MDOT

Mr. John Hartline, Exec. Dir., Tri-County Council for So. Md.

Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator

Mr. John J. Groeger, P.E., Interim Director,

Department of Public Works & Transportation

Mr. Bill Hunt, Interim Director, Department of Land

Use and Growth Management