

Robert J. Alt, Mayor

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March 14, 2019

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



Re: Town of Elkton's FY 2020 Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Rahn:

The Town of Elkton would like to offer for your consideration our FY 2020 transportation priorities. The following transportation improvements will serve to support the Town's projected growth and improve the function and safety of our transportation infrastructure:

1. MD 7D (Delaware Avenue) Sidewalk and Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge project between MD 281 and Creswell Avenue. This project has been a priority for a number of years and is in the planning phase with SHA. Please expedite this much-needed safety project to the construction phase, before another pedestrian has an unfortunate incident with a vehicle. (Please see attached correspondence dated January 4, 2010).

This 87 year-old bridge really should be replaced with a clear-span bridge that includes pedestrian and bicycle lanes. The existing bridge has a concrete pier in the center of the Big Elk Creek, creating an obstruction that results in an accumulation of silt and debris around the bridge which contributes to the repetitive flooding of MD 7D and Meadow Park. A clear-span bridge would allow debris to pass through without blockage, mitigating the frequent road closings that are a huge inconvenience to our residents and visitors each year. The average daily traffic on this Minor Arterial road is over 7,000. Our residents are extremely frustrated with this situation and want this problem resolved as soon as possible.

TOWN OF ELKTON

Elkton Municipal Building, 100 Railroad Avenue, P.O. Box 157, Elkton, Maryland 21922-0157
TELEPHONE: (410) 398-0970 FAX: (410) 398-0128 E-MAIL: building.zoning@elkton.org WEBSITE: www.elkton.org

The Honorable Pete K. Rahn

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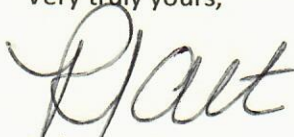
2. Extension of MARC Penn Line commuter rail service to Elkton and Newark, Delaware. This has been a long standing priority for Elkton and Cecil County. There are plans to extend MARC service to Delaware, but service must be re-established in Elkton. The 2014 Elkton Rail Feasibility Study revealed that passenger service to Elkton was feasible on the existing right of way. Re-establishing rail service is key to Elkton's long-term sustainability. Passenger rail service will spur economic development and encourage high density, mixed-use development in Elkton's Downtown. Rail service also increases educational opportunities, broadens labor markets, and expands tourism. It can also link municipalities together into integrated regions that can then function as a single stronger economy. This project is consistent with Elkton's Transit Oriented Development Plan, Elkton's Comprehensive Plan and Elkton's Sustainable Communities Plan.

3. Intersection improvements to MD 213 and US 40: This is an ongoing issue that has been studied by SHA for at least twenty years. There have been incremental lane adjustments over the years, however, the intersection is still very congested with MD 213 operating at a LOS "D" and "F". In 2014, SHA met with Town staff to reveal their latest concept for the intersection - a "Michigan Left". Please continue to work on a solution to the congestion at this major intersection in Elkton. This failing intersection will literally create a "roadblock" for new development in Elkton's Opportunity Zone on the south side of US Route 40.

4. Sidewalk improvements on MD 213 and US 40, as described more fully in the Elkton Pedestrian Plan. The recently adopted Elkton Pedestrian Plan (2018) identifies necessary improvements to the Town's pedestrian network. A majority of the "High Priority" infrastructure recommendations are on MD SHA roads (ex. sidewalks and bike lanes along MD 213, sidewalks or mixed use path along the Delaware Avenue (MD 7D) bridge, intersection/crosswalk improvements at US 40 and MD 213 and complete sidewalks or mixed use path along US 40). Please incorporate the recommendations of the Elkton Pedestrian Plan when planning improvements to the State roadways in Elkton. (Please see attached).

Thank you for the opportunity to convey our transportation priorities to you. Should you have any questions regarding these projects, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Alt

Mayor

Jeanne Minner

From: Planning1
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 9:28 AM
To: Jeanne Minner
Subject: FW: Please help protect Pedestrians on Delaware Ave

From: magowasf@gmail.com [magowasf@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2010 8:45 PM
To: Planning1
Subject: Please help protect Pedestrians on Delaware Ave

I am petitioning you to find a way to have a pedestrian walkway built across Big Elk Creek on Delaware Ave. I was recently struck by an automobile on that bridge while walking my dog across the bridge. Although the Elkton Police report states that I was not 'completely' on the shoulder, we all know there is NO shoulder. A simple picture will suffice in civil court and I plan to wait at least one year before making a decision on any legal remedy at this point.

My story begins as I left my house on Creswell Ave with my dog and proceeded through Meadow Park, then across the foot-bridge that connects to Eder Park. I then walked through Eder Park and up to Main St. Seeing how nice the streets looked with the Christmas lights and the sun was setting, I did not want to go back across the foot-bridge behind Eder Park and proceeded to do a little 'window shopping' along Main St in Elkton. I then started to go back home by way of Delaware Ave. However, as I walked the dog across the Bridge, cars were approaching from both directions. I was approximately half way across the bridge and stopped to pull my dog closer to the side of the bridge to keep her out of harm's way and hoping the car on my side of the road would slow down or stop to let me get across the bridge. It did not! It did not even break while it passed right by me, hitting my wrist, arm and hip. A loud bang and glass flew all over the road! The car proceeded several hundred feet before finally stopping! (I suppose he thought a minute about continuing on?). The driver finally jumped out and started yelling at me about throwing something through his window? Unbelievable! A 51 year old man walking his dog (me) throwing something at this guy's car? I figured the guy was a nut. This guy must be an idiot! Of course I did notice he had a Singlerly Fire dept license plate on his over-sized clunker.

What makes me frustrated and angry is the fact that the town of Elkton has a youth skate park on one side of Big Elk Creek on Delaware Ave, and Meadow Park on the other side. There is plenty of 'shoulder' on either side of the Bridge, but no place for anyone to walk safely for just the short distance across the bridge. I have lived here for over 20 years and witnessed with dismay the bridge being reconstructed with no pedestrian or bicycle lanes. It seems to me the financial outlay at the time was not deemed worthy in comparison to your fellow citizens' safety and their quality of life.

We should try to remedy that.

I try to take my walks or runs at Meadow Park when there are other people and activities as much as possible over the last 20 plus years.

And I have seen cars speeding across the bridge and down Delaware Ave all the time. Most days I try to walk or run when youth sports events are taking place and cars are 'forced' to slow down in that area!
(Safety in numbers?)