

October 6, 2022

Maryland Department of Transportation
Secretary James F. Ports, Jr.
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Mr. Secretary and MDOT Administrators:

Thank you for your continued support of the City of Gaithersburg and the opportunity to share our priorities for the Consolidated Transport Program (CTP).

First, let us begin by thanking you for the increase in highway user revenue allocations from 9.6% to 13.5%. This increase will help the City maintain our streets and allow for pedestrian safety improvements.

We appreciate the continued monetary support of the Montgomery County Ride On (MTA Line 47), which serves our residents in accessing job centers outside of our community.

We are also very pleased to see the State has made an additional allocation of funding of \$86 million for the State sidewalk program reflecting the goals of the State's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (Statewide Line 2). As you are likely aware, pedestrian safety is a priority for our community.

The City of Gaithersburg also respectfully recommends or seeks clarification of the following:

First, MDOT MTA (Line 55) includes exploring MARC line expansion. We remain hopeful that the third line for Brunswick is included per the Statewide Transit Plan and MARC Cornerstone plan and that funding goes towards this expansion.

We also respectfully request that the funding allocation be broken out for Statewide Line 5 to specifically mention Phase I North from South. In this way, we can better understand when the North effort and studies will begin again. As you are aware, the North phase of the project will have an impact on the City of Gaithersburg, and we would like a better understanding of the timeline for this phase.

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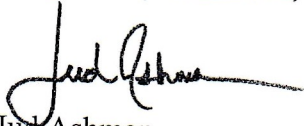
Third, the planning funding has concluded for Statewide Line 7, but are unsure whether this will affect Phase I North (I-370 to I-70), and question how the \$800,000 will be used for engineering (for North or south Phase I).

The City also continues to advocate for reinstating the MD 117 Clopper Road remaining phases. At a minimum, we urge the State to restudy the area and develop various intersection improvements at Pheasant Run Drive, Watkins Mill Rd. Metropolitan Grove Rd, and at MD 124. This project has been on hold since the FY 2010-2015 CTP. Given the opening of the interchange; traffic volumes returning to pre-pandemic levels; the identification of a Montgomery County BRT and OP Lanes P3 operators' Operation and Maintenance Facilities off Metropolitan Grove Road by way of MD 117; continued employment and residential growth in the immediate area; and the State's focus on improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities and safety it is important that this long-delayed project be renewed to address the growing safety and congestion issues experienced now and expected to grow in the coming years.

Lastly, the City of Gaithersburg continues to advocate that MD 355 BRT be the designated priority transit project to receive funding from Phase I South I-270 P3 Lanes. We would appreciate any clarity regarding the additional projects described (Operations and Maintenance Facility for Montgomery County, etc.) in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and where it may be located in the CTP when the funding is secured.

Thank you again for your time and for your continued interest in supporting the City of Gaithersburg. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at jud.ashman@gaitthersburgmd.gov. We look forward to working with you on these endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,



Jud Ashman
Mayor
City of Gaithersburg



Gaithersburg

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