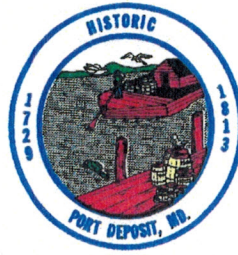


Town of Port Deposit

64 S. Main Street
Port Deposit, MD 21904
410.378.2121
www.portdeposit.org



Robert Kuhs
Mayor

Vicky Rinkerman
Town Administrator

January 17, 2023

Mr. Steve Overbay
Director of Administration
Cecil County Government
200 Chesapeake Blvd, Suite 2100
Elkton, MD 21921

RE: FY 2024 Port Deposit Transportation Priorities

Dear Director Overbay:

On behalf of the Council, thank you for the opportunity to join the County's annual Transportation Priority Letter for FY2024.

The Town of Port Deposit is located between the Susquehanna River and Norfolk Southern Railroad to the west and a 250' granite cliff to the east. Maryland Route 222 serves as our Main Street through Port Deposit for travelers and visitors from Route 1 to the Interstate 95 exits, Hollywood Casino, and Route 40. Our historic industrial town has unique characteristics and having a State highway serve as our Main Street has created challenges as we try to reduce flooding and meet the growing demand for safer vehicle transportation, as well as provide safe bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The Town is seeking innovative solutions to our challenges.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) started a two-year Stormwater Drainage Improvement Project in February 2017 on MD Route 222/Main Street. SHA spent over five years planning and developing this project. In August 2018, the drainage project was terminated for convenience due to issues encountered during the first phase of construction on North Main Street. It is our understanding that the project will require additional right-of-way acquisitions and plats, field borings, test pits, and coordination with Norfolk Southern Railroad officials. The project is now under review and being re-designed.

Due to additional stormwater run-off issues, (i.e. potential development on the granite cliff above Main Street and stormwater pipes from buildings on Main Street being disconnected from the sewer line), that will directly increase flooding on Main Street, it is imperative that the SHA Stormwater Drainage Improvement Project be completed to include the replacement of deteriorating terra-cotta stormdrain pipes; repair or replacement of existing culverts; repair or replacement of outfalls; new outfalls where needed; and flap gates installed in existing outfalls. We respectfully request assistance to ensure that this project is fully funded and completed as soon as possible.

It is our understanding that SHA intends to expand this project to include a streetscape plan as well. The streetscape plan would identify innovative traffic control measures to reduce speeding and tractor trailer traffic on Main Street, as well as provide safe bicycle, pedestrian and historically sensitive

accommodations and infrastructure to meet the growing needs of our community. The residential and economic development boost from these projects would be strengthened by innovative, safe vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian connections in our community for residents and visitors to enjoy our historic culture, restaurants, shops, and waterfront amenities.

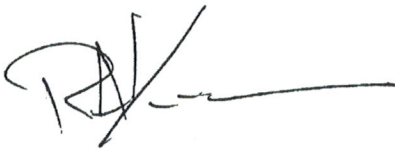
Main Street or Route 222 is not a designated tractor trailer truck route. SHA has installed traffic controls at Route 1 and Route 222 to reduce the tractor trailer traffic that persistently use weight restricted Route 222 as the thoroughfare from Route 1 to the I95 exits and Route 40. The traffic controls at Route 1 have helped reduce the number of tractor trailers coming through town, however, it has not eliminated the use of Main Street as a truck route. The negligence of truck drivers to obey the law endangers our residents, visitors and children. Any assistance you could provide to establish additional traffic control measures and ensure transportation companies and drivers obey the weight restriction regulations to reduce the impact from tractor trailers on Main Street would be appreciated.

The Town respectfully request the following transportation priorities be identified for the Town of Port Deposit:

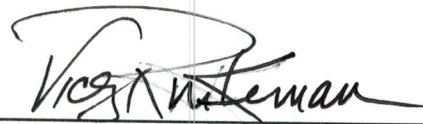
1. Funds for the Stormwater Drainage Improvement Project on MD Route 222 as soon as possible. Project was terminated for convenience in 2018;
2. Include Streetscape Plan on Main Street with stormwater project to improve safe vehicle, pedestrian and bicycle connections throughout Main Street;
3. Continue to enhance traffic control measures for improved vehicle transportation that reduces speeding and impacts from tractor trailer traffic on weight restricted Route 222/Main Street.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting and including our transportation priorities, and I am available to discuss this further at your convenience. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership on future projects in the Town of Port Deposit.

Respectfully,



Robert Kuhs, Mayor



Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator