

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Secretary Gregory Slater  
Secretary of Transportation  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: 2021 MDOT Tour Meeting / Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP)  
Board of County Commissioners Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Slater:

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and staff look forward to your 2021 MDOT CTP Tour Meeting with us and the City of Hagerstown. Please consider these priorities in the upcoming six-year CTP budget for transportation projects.

**Interstate 81 Widening:** The Interstate 81 widening project remains a top priority for Washington County. The County collaborated with MDOT on the Fiscal Year 2021 INFRA Grant Application for Phase 2 Construction and again offered a local contribution of \$1 million towards the project if the grant is secured. The County is grateful to have the Potomac River Bridge and improvements to Williamsport completed. Please continue to evaluate cost-effective ways to phase the remaining widening to the Pennsylvania state line even if the grant is not secured. The County submitted the project as part of Chapter 30 Major Transportation Project Scoring System and assigned all the assigned points to this project. The project continues to rank lower than many other projects in the state.

**Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO):** Washington County is pleased with the plan and progress to implement TSMO strategies/projects and looks forward to the expansion of Intelligent Traffic Systems infrastructure.

**MDOT Coordinated Highways Action Response Team (CHART):** The CHART program is critical to interstate safety and improved response times to traffic incidents in the County. Washington County looks forward to collaborating with MDOT to incorporate the CHART program in various aspects of training and coordination at the new public safety training center, which will be completed in 2022.

**Interstate 70 and Maryland 65 Interchange Improvements:** Construction is ongoing on the replacement of the Interstate 70 bridges at the Maryland 65 Interchange as identified in the CTP, and planning continues on the proposed partial cloverleaf. The interchange improvements, not including the bridge replacement project, were identified for planning funding; however, no design/engineering or construction funding has

80 West Baltimore Street | Hagerstown, MD 21740-6003 | P: 240.313.2460 | TDD: 711

[WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET](http://WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET)

been included in the CTP again this year. This project is not part of the Chapter 30 Major Transportation Project Scoring System as it is the reconstruction of an existing interchange. The interchange currently serves the Premium Outlets to the north and several other new and growing developments to the south, including the recent construction of a popular grocery store. These interchange improvements, as well as coordination by MDOT for much-needed traffic signal synchronization along Maryland 65 in this area, continue to be important to local businesses, citizens, and commuters.

**Highway User Revenue (HUR):** The estimated amount to be received in Fiscal Year 2021 is \$1.76 million, which is drastically lower than the funding received in Fiscal Year 2008 (\$9.05 million). The projected amount for Fiscal Year 2022 is \$1.86 million. This funding supports the operations associated with maintaining approximately 900 miles of road in Washington County, and while the amounts municipalities are receiving is nearing the amounts from years past, the County is down nearly \$100 million in HUR funding since the peak in Fiscal Year 2008. The County continues to request MDOT's support in attempting to reestablish these funding levels, as you are aware how critical this funding is to local governments.

**Aviation Program:** The Hagerstown Regional Airport (HGR) has completed two major projects over the past year which included an expansion of the terminal facility and a rehabilitation of the main runway 9/27. As a result of the Terminal Expansion Project, the Terminal Access Control Project is needed to implement additional security measures and equipment that was not included in the terminal expansion. In Fiscal Year 2021, HGR is also working on acquiring the F8 parcel which is 3.5 acres parallel to Runway 2/20 in order to solve runway visibility zone issues to improve safety of the airfield. The airport is also in need of the rehabilitation of Taxiway F. The project is planned in two phases, which includes design in Fiscal Year 2021 and construction planned for Fiscal Year 2023. The Snow Removal Equipment Building Expansion is planned for design in Fiscal Year 2022 and construction in Fiscal Year 2024. This will give the proper space needed to store all snow equipment and provide the adequate space for safe maintenance operations.

**Transit Program:** While public demand for transit service was impacted this past year due to widespread Covid-19 concerns, Washington County Transit (WCT) was able to recapture 70% of its pre-COVID ridership. We anticipate that with the continued reopening of businesses and workplaces, public demand for service will continue to improve. In a typical year, transit vehicles travel over 500,000 miles and log ridership exceeding expectations. While CARES Act funds helped offset unanticipated expenses and lost revenue, additional formula-based FTA operational funds would serve to expand transit throughout Washington County in accordance with the Transportation Development Plan. For many years, Federal and State operating funds allocations have remained consistently flat for WCT. As a result of the current COVID pandemic, State revenues have now been impacted placing the shortfall upon local authorities. The County provides local match to support the Federal allotment. In Fiscal Year 2021, local County match/over-match dollars fund the subsidy by approximately 59 percent. In Fiscal Year 2022, local County match/over-match will swell by approximately \$297,000, a local match well out of percentage proportion of the projected net project cost. Transit is requesting consideration for financial relief via an increase in Federal and State funds. These increases are needed to bridge the gap between revenues and expenses associated with expansion of transit-related services to rural areas of the County, along with expansion of demand response paratransit service for individuals with disabilities. Additional Federal funds would also support staffing at the Transit Transfer Center in downtown Hagerstown.



The Honorable Secretary Gregory Slater  
March 30, 2021  
Page 3

**Sidewalks:** The Transportation Alternatives Programs (TAP), which includes the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program, have been an important funding source for many local projects in recent years. The County appreciates your continued support of these projects that enhance infrastructure and pedestrian safety in the County as well as the City of Hagerstown.

**Railroad Crossings/Study:** As mentioned last year, the County maintains the road adjacent to 37 rail crossings and looks forward to working again with the MDOT/SHA Railroad Crossing Manager on safety improvements at highway-railroad grade crossings. House Bill 1367, Transportation - Western Maryland, MARC Rail Extension - Study, is still pending for which the County will be consulted as a stakeholder and provided any recommendations regarding the feasibility and cost associated with extending the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) train rail service to western Maryland.

**Appalachian Regional Commission and County-State Coordinated Projects:** The County appreciated your support on the recently completed Appalachian Regional Commission roadway projects and looks forward to collaboration with your staff on several other local projects that involve State/Federal funding, including Eastern Boulevard at Maryland 64 intersection improvements, Professional Boulevard Bridge, Halfway Boulevard Extended, and Wright Road.

Thank you for the support on projects to improve transportation and pedestrian safety in Washington County. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (240) 313-2407 or [shobbs@washco-md.net](mailto:shobbs@washco-md.net).

Sincerely,



Scott Hobbs  
Director of Engineering

Enclosures – Project Maps

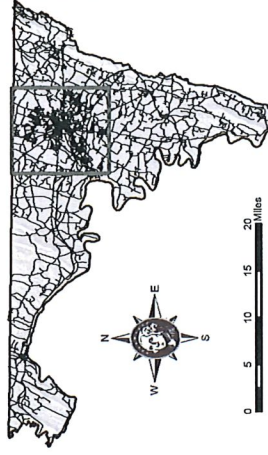
cc: Board of County Commissioners  
John Martirano, County Administrator  
Washington County Delegation Members  
Senator Benjamin Cardin  
Senator Christopher Van Hollen  
Congressman David Trone  
Anthony Crawford, SHA District Engineer  
Rodney Tissue, City Engineer  
Matthew Mullenax, HEPMPO Executive Director  
Garrison Plessinger, Airport Director  
Kevin Cerrone, Transit Director



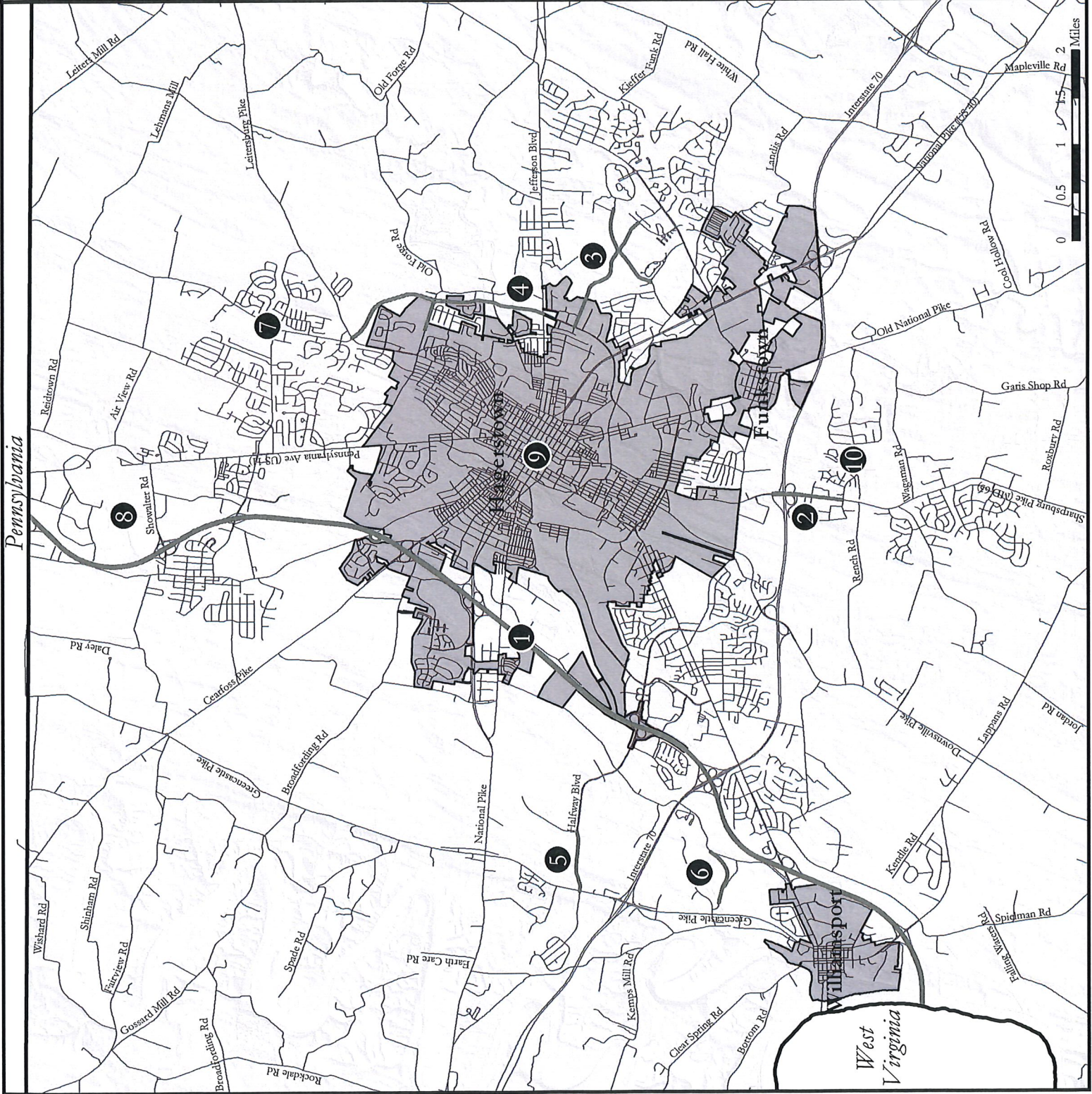
# Transportation Priorities 2021

Washington County, Maryland  
Division of Engineering

 - Municipal Boundaries



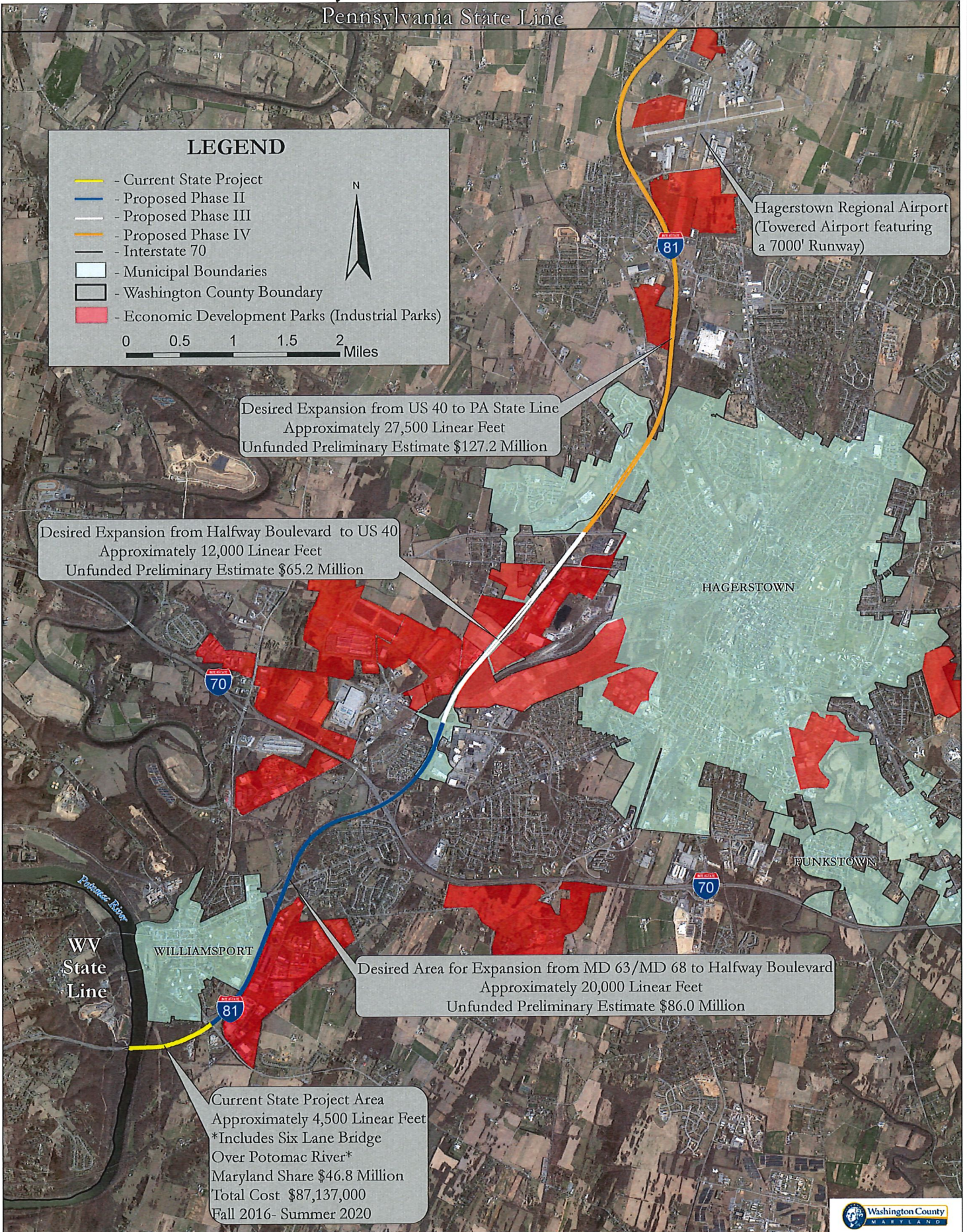
- 1** - Interstate 81 Improvements
- 2** - MD 65 @ I-70 Improvements
- 3** - Professional Boulevard
- 4** - Eastern Boulevard Improvements
- 5** - Halfway Boulevard Extended
- 6** - Wright Road Realignment
- 7** - Sidewalks
- 8** - Aviation Program
- 9** - Transit Program
- 10** - Railroad Crossing



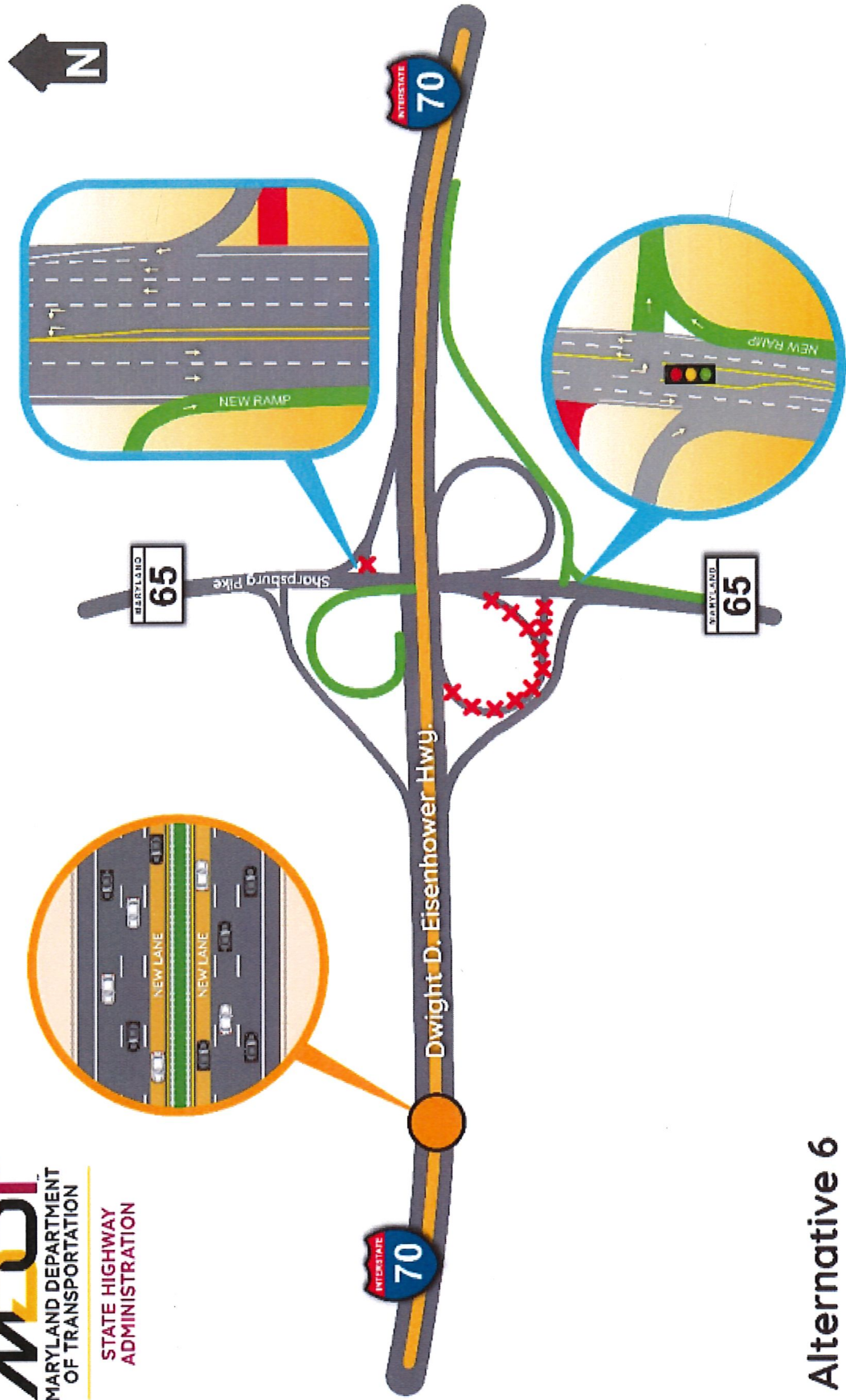


# Priority Interstate 81 Widening

Pennsylvania State Line







**Key**

- Inside Lane Widening
- ✕ Ramp Removal
- Installation of New Ramp

**Alternative 6**  
**Key Improvements**  
**I-70 / MD 65 Improvements**  
 Dwight D. Eisenhower Hwy at Sharpsburg Pike



# Interstate 70 @ Maryland 65

