



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
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May 22, 2007

The Honorable John D. Porcari, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 548
Hanover, MD 21076

Board of Commissioners
Gerald W. Clark
Linda L. Kelley
Wilson H. Parran
Susan Shaw
Barbara A. Stinnett

Dear Secretary Porcari:

Thank you for reaching out to counties early in your new assignment as Secretary. Our Board shares your interest in solving Maryland's transportation challenges and appreciates that you recognize the partnership needed between State and local governments to accomplish our mutual goals.

In particular, our Board is grateful for your Department's commitment to the County's Southern Connector Road (MD 2/4 Lusby Connector). It is a main citizen focus in the southern portion of the County, as it will serve as a solution to daily traffic bottlenecks, as well as an emergency evacuation route for a number of waterfront communities.

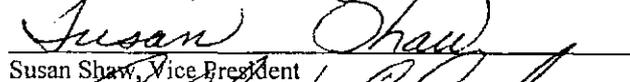
We are also pleased that the State has partially funded the study for a new span of the Thomas Johnson Bridge in Solomons, along with the widening of Route 4 to Route 235. The Board asks that this study be fully funded as soon as possible and that the study include the impact of the new span for the entire MD Route 2/4 corridor. The Bridge is listed as one of the two top regional priorities on the attached list.

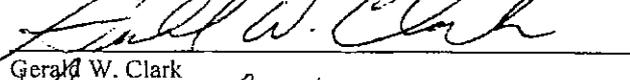
Over the last few years, our Board has made a number of difficult land use decisions to protect the countryside and direct growth to priority funding areas. To continue to be effective, the County needs the State's assistance in making transportation systems work where we grow. The enclosed list includes priorities for all forms of transportation. Thank you for your consideration.

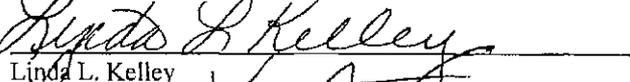
Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND


Wilson H. Parran, President


Susan Shaw, Vice President


Gerald W. Clark


Linda L. Kelley


Barbara A. Stinnett

cc: Calvert County Delegation
Dept. of Planning and Zoning
Dept of Public Works



County Transportation Priorities

HIGHWAYS

Development and Evaluation

The roadway segments displayed below will require project planning studies before the actual system improvements can be constructed. The lead time is longer, but the need for the improvements is great.

- 1) **Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge and MD 4** – Completely fund project planning for a second span of the Bridge and the widening of MD 4 to MD 235.
- 2) **MD 2-4 between MD264 (Broomes Island Road) and MD 263 (Plum Point Road)-**
This continues to be a top priority - Widening to six lanes with access control improvements and two overpasses and an underpass in Prince Frederick. Divided into four phases, this project has been partially engineered, but funding stalled in 2002 and has not been continued. Congestion continues to worsen. Since Calvert County has only this one roadway as a primary transportation link through, into and out of the County, it is imperative that its function be preserved. Our ability to evacuate or respond in the event of emergencies will be seriously compromised if planned upgrades to this highway are not expedited. It is included in the Highway Needs Inventory (HNI).
- 3) **MD 231 (Hallowing Point Road) from Barstow Road to MD 2/4** - Multi-lane highway reconstruction. This road is near lane-carrying capacity and is presently at LOS-D during peak hours. The State owns quite a lot of the right-of-way already, helping to facilitate this project. It, too, is in the HNI.
- 4) **MD 4, Dunkirk Town Center** - widening to six-lanes, with overpass at Ward Road. (Feasibility Study for On-Location Improvements Completed April 2004). The 2004 study assumed a 2010 build-out with LOS-F, both AM and PM at Md. 4 at Town Center Boulevard, MD 4 at Ward Road, and MD 4 at Apple Way. Since the lead time will be so long on this improvement, as it is not yet on the HNI, Calvert County residents and visitors will have begun to experience failure of these intersections long before relief can be afforded. In addition, this becomes a safety issue for evacuations and emergency response. This project is one of the County's top priorities, and should be placed on the Inventory as soon as possible.

System Preservation/Highway Safety Projects

The following should be studied to identify the necessary steps needed to improve motorist safety and relieve congestion, and then advanced to construction.

- 1) **Route 260 and Boyd's Turn Road** Congested conditions and lack of sight distance on north bound 260 create unsafe conditions at this intersection. Study and design for a signal.
- 2) **Intersection at MD 231, Sixes Road, and Skipjack Road (Calvert Industrial Park)**
This intersection is unsafe and needs to be signalized. This will also create breaks in traffic along MD 231, making access onto that road safer for traffic entering along a stretch of that road.
- 3) **MD 260 (Chesapeake Beach Road) and Brickhouse Road** - Study and design for a signal.
- 4) **MD 231 and J W Williams Road** - Intersection widening and improvements..

TRANSIT

1) **Fairgrounds Road, Prince Frederick, Park-and-Ride Facility** - The Fairgrounds Road Park-and-Ride Facility is a combined effort between Calvert County and the MTA to locate, design, construct, and maintain a new park-and-ride lot that will be large enough to serve the needs of daily commuters leaving the Prince Frederick area, heading to the Washington D.C. area. The current site at the old Fairgrounds, on Fairgrounds Road is a temporary, gravel-surfaced lot on property owned by Calvert County. The current proposal is to build a larger, permanent, lot on the same site. Calvert County is willing to provide the land necessary to construct a lot of approximately 400 parking spaces. Calvert County staff personnel have been working with MTA staff personnel to achieve this goal. The project is currently in the design phase. We would like to see this project move as fast as possible, as the citizens of Calvert County have been promised a new lot for the past several years. Calvert County Planning and Zoning, Department of Public Works and Public Transportation are prepared to assist in any way to keep this project moving and working toward the start of construction in 12 to 18 months.

2) **Dunkirk Park-and-Ride Facility** - The Dunkirk Park-and-Ride Facility is a combined effort between Calvert County and the MTA to locate, design, construct, and maintain a new 400 to 500 space park-and-ride lot that would serve the needs of daily commuters leaving the Dunkirk area and traveling to the Washington D.C. area. The current lot in Dunkirk is under a short-term lease arrangement while a new location is being sought. Finding a suitable site available for purchase has proven to be problematic. Several sites have been identified, but were either unavailable for purchase or unsuitable for the intended use. MTA is currently working with property owners in Dunkirk who may be willing to sell a portion of their farmland located close to Rt. 4.

Those negotiations are on-going and Calvert County wishes to see that project keep moving toward a land purchase and ultimately a new lot constructed.

3) Commuter Bus Service to Suitland Metro/Federal Center - MTA currently subsidizes commuter buses from Calvert County to Washington D.C. Those commuter buses, Route 902 and 904, are very heavily used by the Calvert County citizens, and bus drivers often have to leave people behind because the buses are full. Hundreds of citizens from Calvert County commute to the Suitland Federal Center every day. Due to new construction at the Suitland complex, parking has been reduced.

In February, 2005, a MTA representative met with county staff and advised that the new 906 line going to Suitland was going to happen as long as adequate parking could be found. Calvert County agreed to accelerate the Fairground Road Park-and- Ride lot interim expansion as long as the State would commit to the 906 bus line. The commitment has never come from MTA. Calvert County feels that the new 906 line is long overdue and a pressing demand. The County welcomes a MOU with the State to facilitate this.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The following projects, when funded for construction, will help further implementation of Town Center Master Plans.

1) Prince Frederick Town Center – Sidewalks along Church and Main Streets –
This project will continue the existing sidewalks along Main Street to its intersection with Church Street, and follow along the south side of Church Street (MD RT 231) to its intersection with MD RT 4. In addition to sidewalks, the scope of this project also includes improving the storm drainage along Church Street and the intersection of Main and Church Streets by channelizing the lanes in an attempt to achieve a traffic calming effect, thus improving traffic as well as pedestrian safety in this area. This project is important to facilitate pedestrian traffic within the Town Center of Prince Frederick, and should be completed along with the intersection improvements at MD 2/4 and MD 231.

2) Lusby Town Center Streetscape: Rousby Hall Road/HG Trueman Road; MD 760 from east of MD 765 to west of MD 765 and MD 765 from Appeal Lane to south of MD 760 - A portion of this network of streetscape has been completed. We are asking the State to fill the gaps left after developers have completed their projects along the road.

SIDEWALK PROGRAM

The following projects will assist in connecting neighborhoods with schools and activity centers. They will also provide residents with an alternative means of mobility.

Armory Road to Commerce on MD 765 in Prince Frederick - Sidewalks on both sides of the road. This will complete the northern Main Street sidewalk system.

Old Field Road to Prince Frederick Town Center line on MD 765 - Sidewalks to complete southern Main Street sidewalk system.

Solomons, Roy Rogers to Solomons Landing on MD 4 - Sidewalks to complete town center plan.

TRAILS/BIKEWAYS

Rousby Hall Road Multipurpose Trail.

Regional Transportation Priorities

Approved by the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners

I. Top Regional Priorities

- **Waldorf Bypass (US 301 South Corridor Improvement in Waldorf area)**
- **Governor Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge and MD 4 widening from the Bridge to MD 235. Fund project planning for a second span of the Bridge. Widen MD 4 from the Bridge to MD 235.**

II. Regionally Significant Projects

- **Accelerate Mass Transit Improvements in Southern Maryland, including the accelerated implementation of the Transit Service Staging Plan in the U.S. 301/MD5 corridor. The implementation of regional mass transit improvements would include:**
 - Enhanced commuter bus service from Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties to the metropolitan Washington area,**
 - Construction of additional Park-and-Rides facilities in Calvert Charles and St. Mary's Counties,**
 - Identification of a transitway alignment, and preservation of right-of-way, in the U.S. 301/MD5 corridor from White Plains-Waldorf to the Branch Avenue METRO Station.**
 - Bus Rapid Transit (exclusive bus lanes and grade separation) in the U.S. 301/MD 5 corridor, and**
 - Fixed-rail transit (light rail/commuter rail) in the U.S. 301/MD 5 corridor from Waldorf-White Plains to the Branch Avenue METRO Station.**
- **MD 2-4 between MD 264 (Broomes Island Road) and MD 263 (Plum Point Road) – widening to six lanes with access control improvements and two overpasses and one underpass in Prince Frederick.**