



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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May 30, 2007

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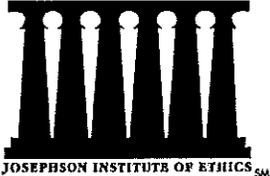
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Mr. John D. Porcari, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: Frederick County's 2007 Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Porcari:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County and Frederick County's State Delegation, we are writing to share Frederick County's transportation priorities for 2007 including priorities for state secondary and primary roads, a streetscape project, spot safety improvements, and transit. It is our understanding that this priority list will be considered in the development of the upcoming Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP).

A complete listing of Frederick County's 2007 transportation priorities is attached to this letter. Local contributions to several priority projects are noted throughout the document. Of note, the County Commissioners have offered an additional \$250,000 in FY 2008 funds to the MD 180/351 project planning. This project is already included in the CTP, but is only partially funded for project planning. This corridor improvement is a priority need due to existing congestion and significant business growth in the immediate area. The County Commissioners have also added an additional \$250,000 toward the project planning for the I-70/Meadow Road interchange. For the first time, a streetscape project has been included, as well as an I-270 Transitway Study to coordinate with the Corridor Cities Transitway project. A developer contribution of \$250,000 is included to support the Transitway Study.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our transportation priorities and comments. We look forward to continuing the longstanding productive partnership between Frederick County and the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Mr. John D. Porcari, Secretary
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If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Denis Superczynski, Principal Planner, Planning Division, at 301 600-1142 or Commissioner Gardner at 301-600-3190.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 
Jan H. Gardner, President

FREDERICK COUNTY STATE DELEGATON

By: 
Richard B. Weldon, Jr., Chairperson

JHG/RBW/DS/lf
Attachment

cc: Frederick County Delegation Members
Frederick County Municipal Officials
Board of County Commissioners
Douglas D. Browning, County Manager
Eric E. Soter, Acting Director, Planning Division
Alan J. Hudak, P.E., Director, Public Works Division
Joyce Grossnickle, Administrative Officer, Office of the County Manager
Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator, State Highway Administration
Paul J. Wiedefeld, Administrator, Maryland Transit Administration
David J. Coyne, District Engineer, State Highway Administration
Stephanie Yanovitz, State Highway Administration
Jenny King, Maryland Department of Planning
Reading File

Summary of Transportation Priorities for Frederick County May 29, 2007

Highways

State Secondary Highways

Pre-Planning (Feasibility Study):

- **US 40A Middletown Bypass** – This project addresses the possible reconstruction and/or relocation of roadway around Middletown. This project would also include a proposed interchange with I-70 at Hollow Road. The SHA, with the consent of the Town of Middletown, is developing a scope of work to conduct a *feasibility study* prior to considering including this project in the project planning portion of the CTP. It is likely that the scope will include a broad set of potential improvements for addressing both the regional and local issues surrounding the use of US 40A as a through-route for residents of Washington County, Middletown and Braddock Heights. The earmark funds would be used for the feasibility study and the local match would be funded by SHA. Currently, Maryland's PFA policies prevent a bypass project – in its current incarnation – from moving forward to future phases of project development. The focus of the study – and the ultimate improvements – would likely shift to addressing improvements associated with a Streetscape project and traffic-calming solutions in and around Middletown. SHA is exploring the possibility with FHWA to determine if the earmark money could be used for the Streetscape project. Frederick County is requesting that if FHWA approves the use of the earmark money for the Streetscape project, SHA fund the local match to fully fund the Streetscape project for Preliminary Engineering. SHA acknowledged that the earmarked money would continue to be available beyond the expiration date of this federal transportation bill in 2009 as long as the earmark's sponsor does not reallocate it.

Planning:

1. **MD 180/351** – This project includes multi-lane reconstruction from the MD180 overpass at I-70 to the MD 351 intersection with Crestwood Blvd, including all associated bridges and the interchange with US 15/340 (west of the Solarex site). The project is currently listed in the State's 2007-2012 CTP and Project Planning is underway. *Frederick County requests additional State funding to complete project planning and has allocated an additional \$250,000 toward project planning in FY2008.*
2. **MD 144** – This project includes the widening of the roadway from the Meadow Road/I-70 Interchange westward to the proposed roundabout at the ramp from westbound I-70.
3. **MD 194** – This project includes the widening to a 4-lane divided roadway between MD 26 and Devilbiss Bridge Road. This project would address both capacity and safety issues.
4. **MD 464 (Souder Road)** – This project includes reconstruction as a two-lane roadway between MD 79 and the eastern limits of the City of Brunswick.
5. **MD 75** – This project includes reconstruction and partial relocation as a two-lane highway between I-70 and MD 355 to address both capacity and safety issues.

Construction:

- **MD 85 Phase I** - Frederick County is requesting construction funding to advance Phase I of the MD 85 project (I-270 interchange reconfiguration). The County has previously allocated \$1.5 million toward design and engineering. Phase I is fully funded for the design/engineering phase.

State Primary Highways

Pre-Engineering/Design (Local Prioritization):

- **I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study** – Because it is unlikely that the entirety of the \$2.0+ billion project will be constructed at once, Frederick County should begin the process of determining high priority breakout projects to move forward with design/engineering – either interchanges, safety improvements, or widening of highway road segments in Frederick County – in anticipation of the completion of the planning study in 2009. This process will need to be coordinated with Montgomery County and the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Project Planning:

- **I-70/Meadow Rd. Interchange Improvement** – Frederick County requests additional funding to fully fund Project Planning. This project includes the addition of missing vehicular movements from and to westbound I-70 to create a full interchange. The project is currently listed in the State's 2007-2012 CTP. *The County has provided \$250,000 in funding in FY 2008 and will commit to an additional \$250,000 in FY 2009.*

Design & Engineering:

- **I-70 Improvements Phase 4 (I-70 widening from I-270 to Mt. Phillip Road)** - Frederick County requests funding to support design and engineering (P.E.) for Phase 4 of this project. The widening of the mainline is needed to eliminate congestion and the bottleneck through this corridor.

Construction:

- **I-70 Improvements Phase 2D** – Frederick County requests funding to initiate construction work on Phase 2D (including Patrick St. roundabout, I-70 ramp reconstruction, I-70 bridge over Reich's Ford Road, Reich's Ford pumping station, and ultimate I-70 widening from Patrick St. to MD 355 vicinity).
- **US 15/Monocacy Blvd Interchange** – This project includes construction of a new interchange as well as approach road improvements. Project planning is underway. This project is fully funded for project planning and engineering. Construction funding is requested when needed. *The County has allocated \$1,000,000 in funding in FY 2008 and will commit to an additional \$1,000,000 in FY 2009 for this project.*

State Highway Safety Projects

1. **US 15 (south of US 340)** – Support interim improvements currently proposed at the MD 464 and Mountville Road intersections. Support ultimate improvement to widen US 15 to a 4-lane divided roadway with new grade-separated interchanges at MD 464 and north of Mountville Road. (*\$122,383 – from escrow fund; as additional money is added to the escrow fund, it will be transferred to SHA*)
2. **US 40A Safety Improvements** – Support improvements on US 40A in and around Middletown including the intersections/entrances to the Fountaindale community located east of Middletown. (*\$100,000 - FY2006*)
3. **US 40/MD 17 (Wolfsville Road) Intersection Signalization** – Support funding for the construction of planned signalization improvements at this intersection on the northeastern edge of Myersville.

Streetscape Projects:

- **Jefferson Streetscape Project** – Frederick County requests construction funding for this longstanding streetscape project in the unincorporated community of Jefferson. Phase I of the Streetscape concept development began in the Spring of 2000 and was completed in February 2002. At this point program funding was cut and the project was placed on hold, as were projects throughout the state. In May 2005, funds were restored and the Jefferson Streetscape project was fully funded for Preliminary Engineering. Survey work was initiated and a preliminary investigation was held on February 22, 2007. During the preliminary investigation meeting, it was determined that the initial Phase I concept was not in compliance with the new American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and bicycle compatibility requirements. A waiver of bicycle compatibility on MD 180 was approved in July 2006 and design activities resumed. In January 2007, the SHA project team met to review the design and noticed approximately 1,900 feet of roadway that was proposed for full-depth reconstruction, which increased the cost estimate to approximately \$4.3 million without considering utility relocations or right of way. The SHA project team is looking at ways to reduce or eliminate this area of full-depth reconstruction without changing the overall concept of the design to reduce cost. If no major changes come out of cost reductions reviews, the project will proceed to Semi-Final Review (project milestones indicating plans are about 60%-65% complete) this summer and have a Final Review in the Fall/early Winter of 2007 with a production Advertisement date of Spring 2008. The request is for construction funding for 2008.

Transit

Local Transit

- Maintain existing service levels
- Expand peak period shuttle service to regional communities such as Urbana, Middletown, and New Market as sustainable rider-ship develops.
- Expand Saturday Connector Route service to operate same routes on Saturdays as weekdays
- Expand Walkersville Shuttle by adding Saturday service
- Evaluate need for additional paratransit service
- Evaluate need to expand Rt. 85 and East County shuttles
- Evaluate need for Passenger Transfer centers
- Evaluate sidewalk improvements for bus stops
- Address Transit facility space and parking needs

Regional Transit

- **I-270 Transitway Study** - Seek possible State and/or federal funding to conduct an engineering/corridor preservation study of the Frederick portion of the I-270 Transitway (also referred to as the Corridor Cities Transitway or CCT). This study would assess the current master plan alignment to determine if the alignment is suitable or whether alternates should be considered. Station locations and other transit related facilities would also be addressed. There will be contribution of \$250,000 from the applicant/developer of the Urbana MXD project that may be applied to the cost of this study.
- **MARC System** – Maximize investment in the Frederick's MARC system service to increase rider-ship by increasing the frequency of Frederick rail service