



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013

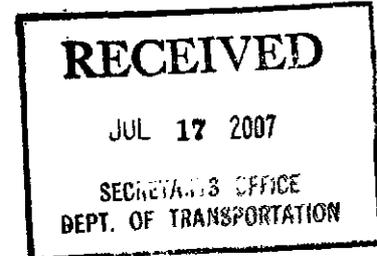
Ken Ulman  
Howard County Executive

[www.howardcountymd.us](http://www.howardcountymd.us)  
FAX 410-313-3051  
TDD 410-313-2323

SHA

July 11, 2007

The Honorable John D. Porcari, Secretary of Transportation  
Office of the Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076



Dear Secretary Porcari:

Congratulations once again on your recent appointment and thank you for the candid conversation we recently had in your offices about Howard County's priority transportation needs. I am looking forward to a collegial and mutually beneficial relationship with you and your staff.

I am writing to provide you with an updated Howard County Administration list of priority projects for proposed inclusion in the FY08 to FY13 Consolidated Transportation Program. I am cognizant that our priorities this year are tempered by the need to accommodate anticipated BRAC related impacts within the region and the State. I also recognize that the State is confronting serious budgetary issues; and I wish to express my support for your efforts to evaluate and move forward with appropriate revenue enhancement options.

I am pleased to note that ridership on Howard Transit continues to grow, and for fiscal year 2007 will approach 900,000 trips for our combined fixed route and paratransit services. The success of these services is attributed in large measure to the technical assistance provided by MTA this past year. I am also gratified by progress this year on several important highway planning and engineering studies including I-70, US1 and the US29/US40 intersection. Howard County will continue to support these and other projects of regional importance through the judicious use of our excise tax revenues.

As we discussed, my highest transit priority this year is for funding to replace as many buses in our aging fleet as possible, and to do so with environmentally responsible diesel electric hybrid vehicles. I am committed to supporting this effort as needed with additional County funds beyond the traditional formula matching requirements. It is also of vital importance for the State to continue to provide technical and financial support for our efforts to develop a Central Maryland Transit Operations Facility (CMTOF) at Fort Meade.

My top highway priority is for the State to begin a project planning study of grade separation options to relieve chronic traffic congestion at the US1/MD175 intersection and the widening of Route 175 between I-95 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Eliminating this bottleneck is essential in order to facilitate regional travel demand to and from Fort Meade and NSA. Furthermore, in order to accommodate regional travel between Fort Meade and I-95, I request that SHA begin a project planning study to provide a minimum of four mainline lanes on MD175 from US1 to MD295.



On a regional level, I would endorse and encourage improvements to existing MARC service as the best short term solution to mass transit in coordination with the local bus systems. I would also like to express my support for the State's study of an extension of the Washington Metro Green Line to Laurel, Fort Meade, BWI Airport and beyond. Such a connection would not only be advantageous to commuters to Fort Meade but would benefit all who travel in the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

Thank you for considering Howard County's priority transportation needs. Our list of priority projects is attached.

Sincerely,



Ken Ulman  
County Executive

KU/rj

Attachment

cc: Howard County Delegation  
Howard County Council Members  
Public Transportation Board Members  
Sam Minnitte, Director, Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT  
Neil Pedersen, Administrator, SHA  
Raja Veeramachaneni, Director, Planning and Preliminary Engineering, SHA  
David Coyne, District Engineer, SHA  
Paul Wiedefeld, Administrator, MTA  
Henry Kay, Deputy Administrator, Planning and Engineering, MTA  
Simon Taylor, Director of Planning, MTA  
Harvey Bloom, Director of Transportation, BMC  
Aaron Greenfield, Chief of Staff  
Jessica Feldmark, Legislative Assistant  
Joan Kennedy, Director of Governmental Affairs  
Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer  
Kent Menser, Executive Director, BRAC Task Force  
James Irvin, Director, Department of Public Works  
Kevin Enright, Administrator, Public Information Office  
Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning  
Steve Lafferty, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Zoning  
Carl Balsler, Chief, Division of Transportation Planning  
File: CTP - FY 2008

**PRIORITY STATE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN HOWARD COUNTY**  
**Submitted July 2007**

**A. Transit**

1. ***Fleet Replacement.*** Provide funding to replace the oldest Howard Transit buses with diesel electric hybrid vehicles
2. ***Transit Operations Facility.*** The development of a Central Maryland Transit Operations Facility at Fort Meade is my second highest transit priority. Provide ongoing technical and funding assistance with regard to site planning, environmental analysis, engineering and construction.
3. ***Technology Upgrades.*** Provide funding for upgraded on-board bus technology in the following areas in order to enhance operating performance, cost effectiveness and passenger safety.
  - a. ***Automated Vehicle Location (AVL).*** Provide funding for system expansion and upgrade.
  - b. ***Security Cameras.*** Acquire and install digital security cameras on all fixed route and paratransit vehicles in order to better monitor operations, reduce insurance claims and respond to emergency situations.
  - c. ***Telephone Call-back System.*** Acquire a customer call-back system as a means to upgrade paratransit service reliability, improve customer satisfaction and reduce costs from no-shows and late cancellations.
4. ***Shelter Program.*** Continue successful bus shelter installation program at high use bus stops as a means of improving customer satisfaction and encouraging added ridership.

**B. Highways**

1. ***US 1/MD 175.*** My highest highway priority is for SHA to conduct a project planning study to evaluate grade separation options at this severely congested location as recommended in the County's US 1 Corridor Revitalization Study and as necessitated by the need to accommodate anticipated BRAC related commuter traffic.
2. ***MD 175.*** In response to BRAC related travel demand, my second highest highway priority is for SHA to conduct a project planning study to provide a minimum of four continuous mainline lanes on MD 175 from US 1 to MD 295. This project should be coordinated with plans underway for improvements east of MD 295.

3. **US 40/US 29/Ridge Rd.** Complete engineering studies of this highly congested and hazardous intersection and commence short term and long-term improvements.
4. **US 29.** Widen northbound US 29 to three mainline lanes from north of the Middle Patuxent River to south of MD 175. Complete design and begin construction.
5. **US 1 Corridor.** Complete the corridor study now underway and proceed to phased implementation of recommended network, pedestrian, transit and streetscape improvements.
6. **US40/ Rogers Avenue.** Addition of turn lanes on US40 and widening of Rogers Avenue on the northern leg of the intersection.
7. **MD 108.** Widen mainline to four lanes from Centennial Lane to Woodland Road.
8. **I-70.** Complete the current study of traffic capacity and operations in the I-70 corridor from US 40 to the Baltimore County line to include design of interchange improvements at Marriottsville Road and widening of I-70 between US 40 and US 29. Proceed with design and construction of short term improvements recommended in the study.
9. **MD 32.** Complete project planning, design and right-of-way acquisition leading to the phased reconstruction of MD 32 making necessary safety improvements from MD 108 to I-70.
10. **MD 100.** Conduct a study of potential capacity and safety improvements at the I-95/MD 100 interchange and MD 100 mainline from I-95 to east of the Anne Arundel County line.
11. **MD 32/Linden Church Rd.** Continue to evaluate and pursue options for potential joint funding of an interchange at this location.
12. **US 29/Old Columbia Rd.** The County supports the recommendation that this improvement option, as presented to the public at the March 28, 2007 community meeting, be presented to the SHA Administrator for inclusion in the Fund 30 program.