

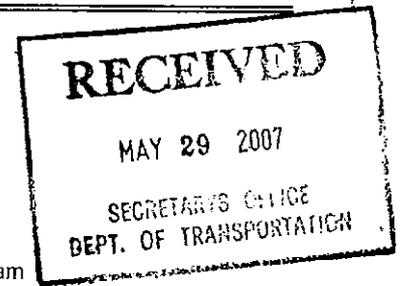
ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
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May 22, 2007

Mr. John D. Porcari, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548 Mail Stop 200
Hanover, MD 21076



RE: Transportation Program

Dear Secretary Porcari:

Thank you for coming to St. Mary's County with your staff on May 7th to discuss the FY 2008 Consolidated Transportation Program. We understand that the current budget climate will require a revenue enhancement to allow additional projects, which may be addressed by a special legislative session this Fall. We appreciate the addition of partial planning funding for the MD Route 4 corridor/Thomas Johnson Bridge and the MD Route 5 from MD Route 245 to MD Route 243 expansion projects, which were added in FY 2007. We are also grateful for the recently completed safety improvements at the MD Route 235 - MD Route 6 intersection, as well as the new traffic control signals at the MD Route 4 intersections with FDR Blvd and MD Route 5. The MD Route 234 - MD Route 238 roundabout project is well underway, and the recently posted 45 MPH construction zone speed limits should improve safety during construction. As we have discussed, transportation will remain a regional high priority for Southern Maryland. Priority local projects that we would like to discuss with you include the following:

Highway Projects

MD Route 237 - Chancellors Run Road: This project represents the highest priority with respect to addressing access and safety issues, and has been included in the Program for a significant period of time. We were pleased to hear that project funding has been fully committed, right-of-way acquisition is underway, and that the design/build process was recently advertised. The County has been assisting with this process by requiring fee simple right-of-way dedication via the SHA's process to assure developers are doing their part in providing capacity and safety improvements along this roadway.

MD Route 5 - Point Lookout Road: The upgrade of the Point Lookout portion of this roadway to include shoulders and bicycle accommodations will greatly improve safety, accommodate visitors to the County's most prominent park, and provide roadside enhancements along this primary evacuation route for the southernmost portion of the County. With this project currently in the Secondary Development and Evaluation Program, the Board previously selected the \$3.8M breakout project (south of Camp Brown Road to Ranger Station) described by Mr. Pedersen as our priority interim improvement for this corridor, which includes the necessary widening the Scotland Beach intersection. We were pleased to hear that the engineering is nearing completion. Construction should be budgeted for FY 2008 as funding allows. The balance of the safety and widening recommendations on MD Route 5 toward Point Lookout State Park could be prioritized in subsequent phases.

Point Lookout Road, from MD Route 243 to MD Route 245: Thank you for placing this project within the Secondary Development Program for widening and multi-lane reconstruction. The planning study should continue to be fully funded for completion in FY 2008. As requested last year, short-term measures should be considered to eliminate the safety issues along the MD Route 5 corridor, particularly at the Moakley Street intersection. We would also like to request that you consider extending the scope of the study area along MD 5 past the Leonardtown High School to address roadway width and congestion issues.

MD Route 5, from MD Route 246 to MD Route 249: Included in the recently adopted Transportation Plan is the identified need to address this section of roadway, which experiences peak hour delays at this time. After review of the conceptual drawings provided to us, it would appear that the section between MD Route 246 and MD Route 249 is a high priority due to current levels of congestion experienced in this corridor. At our request, a conceptual plan has been developed by SHA staff for this project. Since our Pegg Road project has been funded for project planning, any additional consideration of this portion of MD Route 5 will be made upon completion of the Pegg Road study during FY 2008.



Thomas Johnson Bridge/ MD Route 4: As you are aware, a project of this magnitude can take 20 years or more from planning inception to completion. Since our County-wide Transportation Plan predicts severe congestion in this vital County gateway by that time, it is imperative that the \$3.5M to complete project planning be fully funded in the next two (2) years. We understand that this project includes the MD Route 4/MD Route 235 interchange, and that a hiker/biker connection between our Three Notch Trail project and Solomon's Island will be addressed in the planning study. We would respectfully request that a concept plan be provided that would more clearly delineate the possible limits of properties affected, describes possible project phasing / timing and addresses how this consolidated effort might affect the future funding of other priorities. We are also reviewing alternative routes (i.e., FDR Boulevard Extended) that developers could construct to divert traffic from the intersection, but realize that even with those improvements, an interchange will be necessary. This intersection and the MD 235 corridor remains one of the high profile and primary entryways to the Naval Air Station and visitor gate.

MD Route 234 – MD Route 242: On June 23, 2005 our staff met with the SHA's representatives and discussed the falling level of service at this intersection and the evening delays. It was suggested that we request this 4-way stop be evaluated as a possible Safety/Spot Improvement project, which may include the installation of a roundabout similar to the one proposed at the MD 234/MD 238 intersection that is currently funded for preliminary engineering and expected to be under construction next Spring. We understand that further consideration will be given to establishing a project at this intersection as congestion becomes more regular.

Trails and Bikeways: As the bicycling community continues to grow within St. Mary's County, we have received an increasing number of requests for bicycle accommodations along our roadways. Our Transportation Plan analyzed all available bicycle plans to arrive at a County-wide plan. We are including paved shoulders in our overlay program, and are requiring developers to provide facilities along their frontage. We are requesting that MDOT participate in this effort through their development review process as well as the CTP. Improved shoulders should be included in the System Preservation program and special projects. Roadways with shoulders in need of improvement include MD Route 6 from MD Route 5 to All Faith Church Road, MD Route 245 from MD Route 5 to Baldrige Street, MD Route 5 from MD Route 243 to MD Route 245, MD Routes 236, 243, 272, and 244. We are requesting our staff to discuss priorities with SHA staff during their quarterly meetings.

Community Safety and Enhancements

MD Route 5 in Leonardtown: Thank you for programming the MD Route 5 project in Leonardtown for construction in FY 2007.

MD Route 246 in Lexington Park: We are pleased to hear that the design of the MD Route 246 project is more than 65% complete. This project is a critical component in our revitalization efforts in the Lexington Park priority funding area. Construction funding should be considered a high priority revenue enhancement project. It is understood that a County-wide sidewalk ordinance will not be required, since individual easements can be secured for the minimal number of affected properties.

Transit Projects

Western Route: Although we understand that funding is not forthcoming this fiscal year, funding of a new Western Route to serve the Seventh District area is important to the County to serve our growing rural population, and would be a good use of revenue enhancement funds.

Sidewalk Retrofit Program

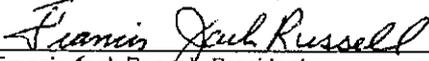
MD Route 5 –Golden Beach Road: Our staff is diligently working towards design completion, and construction of this minor project should be complete by the end of the current fiscal year. No priorities have been identified for the FY 08 program.

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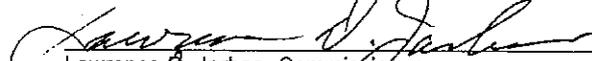
Also, the program includes the continued approval of public transportation and regional airport grants that continue to allow us to provide expanded opportunities for the citizens. We also understand our respective staff recently completed coordination on a permit for a park-n-ride lot and salt dome off MD Route 5, which will be a mutually beneficial public use of that property. We would also like to discuss performing an evaluation and feasibility of the Pegg Road extension cross-County connector project as another alternative to relieving failing intersections on MD 235 and the Great Mills area that will also serve as a secondary evacuation route for the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. Since we believe this project may have a significant benefit on the Federal, State and local levels, we would like to discuss opportunities for possible joint funding. Finally, we understand that streetscaping in the MD Route 5 median in Charlotte Hall will require a sponsor for maintenance, and we will attempt to assist the District Engineer in identifying such a partner in the near future. We look forward to discussing the continued progression on these local and regional projects during the upcoming tour meeting. Please extend our gratitude to Governor O'Malley for all his support.

Sincerely,

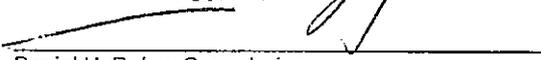
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BOCC:GAE:JGG:cp

cc: Senator Roy P. Dyson
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Denis Canavan, Director, Land Use & Growth Management
Jackie Fournier, Transportation Manager

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