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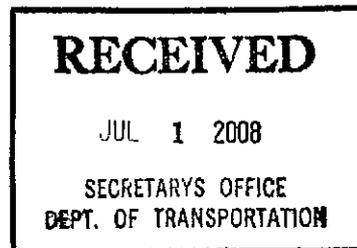


HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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Howard County Executive

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June 25, 2008



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:

I am forwarding Howard County's updated list of priority projects for proposed inclusion in the FY10 to FY15 Consolidated Transportation Program. Our priorities this year continue to emphasize BRAC related needs within the region and the State.

For fiscal year 2008, Howard Transit will exceed 900,000 trips. I am grateful for the technical assistance provided by MTA staff as well as your financial help in facilitating the replacement of a number of our aging buses. We are currently awaiting arrival of our first hybrid buses. I am also gratified by progress on several important highway projects including MD32, US29, I-70 and MD108. Howard County continues to support these and other projects through the judicious use of our excise tax revenues.

My highest transit priority for fiscal year 2010 is for funding to replace an additional seven buses with environmentally responsible hybrid transit vehicles. I will continue to support this effort with County funds beyond the traditional formula matching requirements. As fuel prices rise, the decision to acquire hybrid vehicles is proving to be an economically sound investment as well as the right choice for the environment. Of equal importance, I am requesting that the State continue to support the development of a Central Maryland Transit Operations Facility (CMTOF). Once operational, the facility will reduce costs for the three LOTS programs it will house and may provide a base of operations for expanded regional bus service in support of BRAC demand.

My top highway priorities again this year are for the State to begin two project planning studies; the first for grade separation at the US1/MD175 intersection and the second to widen MD175 between I-95 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. These two projects are of vital importance to serve BRAC related commuter traffic anticipated within the next few years.

On a regional level, I continue to endorse improvements to MARC service as the best short term solution to mass transit demand in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor.

Additionally, I truly appreciate your efforts and that of MDOT and SHA staff in working to address the Park and Ride issues in Howard County. I value our partnership and very much enjoy our relationship.



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

Sincerely,



Ken Ulman
County Executive

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Attachment

cc: Howard County Delegation
Howard County Council Members
Public Transportation Board Members
Don Halligan, Director, Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT
Heather Murphy, Deputy Director, Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT
Neil Pedersen, Administrator, SHA
Raja Veeramachaneni, Director, Planning and Preliminary Engineering, SHA
David Coyne, District Engineer, SHA
Douglas Simmons, Deputy Administrator, SHA
Mary Dietz, Regional Planner, SHA
Vaughn Lewis, Regional Planner, SHA
George Miller, District 7, SHA
Paul Wiedefeld, Administrator, MTA
Henry Kay, Deputy Administrator, Planning and Engineering, MTA
Diane Ratcliff, Director of Planning, MTA
Lenny Howard, Manager, Statewide Planning, MTA
Louise Tinkler, Chief of Regional Planning, MTA
Del Price Harvey, Regional Planner, Office of Planning & Programming, MTA
George Cardwell, Office of Planning, Anne Arundel County
Ray Ambrose, Transit Administrator, Corridor Transportation Corporation
Harvey Bloom, Director of Transportation, BMC
Aaron Greenfield, Chief of Staff
Jessica Feldmark, Legislative Assistant
Joan Kennedy, Director of Governmental Affairs
Joshua Feldmark, Director of Environmental Sustainability
Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer
Kent Menser, Executive Director, BRAC Task Force
James Irvin, Director, Department of Public Works
Mark DeLuca, Division Chief, Traffic Engineering, Department of Public Works
Ron Lepson, Traffic Engineering, Department of Public Works
Steve Sharar, Division Chief, Transportation and Special Projects, 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
Kimberley Flowers, Deputy Director, Department of Planning and Zoning
Carl Balsler, Chief, Division of Transportation Planning
Ben Pickar, Planning Supervisor, Transportation Planning, DPZ
Brian Muldoon, Planner, Transportation Planning, DPZ
Lisa Hill, Planner, Transportation Planning, DPZ
File: CTP - FY 2009

PRIORITY STATE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN HOWARD COUNTY
Submitted June 2008

A. Transit

1. ***Fleet Replacement.*** Provide funding to replace the seven oldest Howard Transit buses with hybrid vehicles
2. ***Transit Operations Facility.*** The development of a Central Maryland Transit Operations Facility is my second highest transit priority. Provide ongoing technical and funding assistance with regard to site acquisition, site planning, environmental analysis, engineering and construction. (CMTOF)
3. ***Technology Upgrades.*** Provide funding for upgraded on-board bus technology 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 remaining transit vehicles in order to better monitor operations, reduce insurance claims and respond to emergency situations.
 - c. ***Smart Cards.*** Complete State funding of Smart Card technology and for installation and software maintenance.
4. ***Shelter Program.*** Provide funding for bus shelter installation at high use bus stops as a means of improving customer satisfaction and encouraging added ridership. Program should include funding to provide safe and accessible sidewalk connections.
5. ***MTA Service.*** Increase frequency and expand service hours on the MTA 310/311 and 150 routes.

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 US 1 Corridor Revitalization Study and as necessitated by anticipated BRAC related commuter traffic.
2. ***MD 175.*** Also BRAC related, my second 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 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.
4. **US 40/US 29/Ridge Rd.** Complete engineering studies of this highly congested and hazardous intersection and commence short term and long-term improvements.
5. **US 1 Corridor.** Proceed to phased implementation of recommended network, pedestrian, transit and streetscape improvements recommended in the US1 Corridor Study.
6. **US40/ Rogers Avenue.** Add turn lanes on US40 and widen Rogers Avenue on the northern leg of the intersection.
7. **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.
8. **MD 32.** Continue the phased reconstruction and widening of MD 32 from MD 108 to I-70, including construction of an interchange at Linden Church Road.
9. **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.
10. **Coordinated Highway Action Response Team ("CHART").** Expand CHART capabilities in the I-95 corridor.