CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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July 14, 2009

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Board of Commissioners
Gerald W. Clark
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The Honorable Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, Acting Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 548
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: Calvert County Transportation Priorities

Dear Secretary Swaim-Staley:

Our Board of County Commissioners wishes to thank you once again for your attendance and interest at the Calvert County *Capital for the Day* initiative in June. It is noted that there has been significant increased communication with the Maryland Transit Authority since then. We are also grateful that planning continues on one of Southern Maryland's top transportation projects – the study to upgrade MD 4 between MD 2 and MD 235, including the Thomas Johnson Bridge and MD 235 intersection (2.91 miles). In addition, we are pleased that planning work continues for the Dunkirk Park and Ride, and we ask that this project be funded for construction as soon as feasible.

Our Board wants to ensure that you are apprised of Calvert County's local, as well as regional, transportation priorities. We are currently in the process of initiating an update to our local transportation plan and, as a result, we anticipate changes in priorities. However, until we have evaluated transportation issues as part of the update, we still support the existing priorities.

We are very much aware of the present fiscal realities, not only for transportation, but for many other programs as well. Nevertheless, we wanted to forward the County's transportation priorities to your department for possible future consideration.

The Board of County Commissioners appreciates your continuing interest in County transportation priorities.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Wilson H. Parran, President

Gerald W. Clark, Vice President

Linda L. Kelley

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Calvert 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 design phase for the bridge project.

2) MD 2-4 between MD 264 (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 one 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) 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 an 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, 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 is included on the HNI.

System Preservation/Highway Safety Projects

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

1) MD 231 (Church Street) at MD 765 (Main Street) – Redesign of intersection and construction for traffic calming. Include improvement of storm drainage along Church Street and sidewalks as a part of this project.

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 402 (Dares Beach Road) at Fairground Road – Study, design, and funding for a signal at this intersection.

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 Roads 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 have been working with MTA staff to achieve this goal. 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 Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Public Works and Public Transportation are prepared to assist in any way possible to keep this project moving.

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 that was 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 farm land located close to Route 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, Routes 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 personnel 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 expand the Fairground Road Park-and-Ride lot as an interim expansion as long as the State would commit to the 906 bus line. The commitment has never been received 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) MD 231 (Church Street) at MD 765 (Main Street) Sidewalks – 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 to its intersection with MD Route 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) MD 760 (Rousby Hall Road) from east of MD 765 (HG Trueman Road) to west of MD 765 and MD 765 from Appeal Lane to south of MD 760 - Lusby Town Center Streetscape - 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 these roads.

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 design.

II. Regionally Significant Projects

- Accelerate Mass Transit Improvements in Southern Maryland, including the accelerated implementation of the Transit Service Staging in the U.S 301/MD 5 corridor. The implementation of regional mass transit improvements would include:
  - Enhanced commuter bus service from Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties;
  - Identification of a transit-way alignment, and preservation of right-of-way, in the U.S. 301/MD 5 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 White Plains-Waldorf 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.