

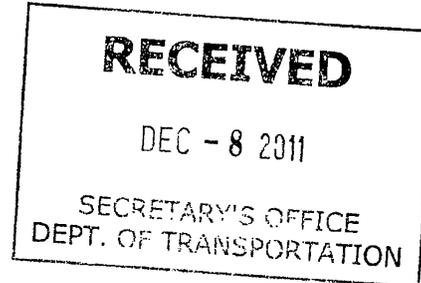
CITY OF BALTIMORE
STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

KHALIL ZAIED, Director
417 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

December 2, 2011



Ms. Beverley Swaim-Staley
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Secretary Swaim-Staley:

Thank you for your November 14th visit to City Hall for the annual Consolidated Transportation Program Consultation Meeting. The City of Baltimore greatly appreciates our partnership with MDOT and its modal administrations.

The purpose of this letter is to formalize the comments made by Mayor Rawlings-Blake in expressing the City's transportation priorities.

As the 2012–2017 CTP is finalized for presentation to the General Assembly, we urge MDOT to advance the following priority projects:

- **Red Line Transit Project** – Baltimore City continues to strongly support the Red Line Transit Project and congratulates MTA/MDOT on the project's entry into Preliminary Engineering, as well as the designation from President Obama to receive expedited federal review. In furtherance of the Red Line, the City's Capital Improvement Program includes nearly \$65 million to reconstruct the Edmondson Avenue Bridge over Gwynn's Falls in West Baltimore and the "Boh'Donnell Street" connector road in Southeast Baltimore. These projects are assumed to be completed by the City in the project's financial plan and we are committed to doing so.

- **Bayview MARC Station** – Earlier this month, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board adopted the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan which included a new MARC Station at Bayview as a regionally significant project. Baltimore City strongly supports this project not only as the eastern "book-end" of the Red Line but also as a major economic growth opportunity.



The National Institutes of Health has expressed its strong desire to see this station built so that it can strengthen the relationship between its facilities at the Bayview Medical Center and its facilities in suburban Washington, D.C. The City's Capital Improvement Program includes \$6 million over the next 3 years to acquire right-of-way, design and construct the necessary access improvements and parking for the Bayview MARC Station. We urge MTA to advance the planning and engineering process for Bayview in order to be able to compete for federal discretionary grant opportunities should local funds not soon be available.

- **West Baltimore MARC Station** – Likewise on the west side of Baltimore, continuing to advance the redevelopment of the West Baltimore MARC Station will fulfill a commitment made by MDOT in the 2008 *West Baltimore Transit-Centered Community Development Plan*. By the end of 2013, the City and MDOT will have together invested more than \$13 million in infrastructure improvements at West Baltimore MARC, including demolition of the last section of the “highway to nowhere” for expanded parking, streetscape improvements for Pulaski Street and Edmondson Avenue and reconfiguration of the Fulton Avenue bridge as part of the West Baltimore bike-ped loop. We urge that feasibility study funding be included in FY13 or 14 for reconstruction of the station itself for this project so that we can all understand how a new station will interact with the Red Line, planning for the replacement of the B&P tunnel and other projects in the area.

- **Rehabilitation/Relocation of Bus Maintenance Facilities** – I am pleased to see that the historic Washington Blvd. bus maintenance facility is receiving \$27 million in investment to keep this important facility in a state of good repair. I am disappointed, however, that despite the purchase of the Reese Press site on Kirk Avenue the draft CTP contains no funding to actually reconstruct the Kirk Avenue Bus Division. Completion of this project is a long-standing commitment to the East Baltimore-Midway-Barclay community and is important in order to combat air, noise and light pollution which have affected this community for decades. Finally, initiating feasibility and planning studies for the Eastern Bus Division in the Greentown community.

Ms. Beverley Swaim-Staley

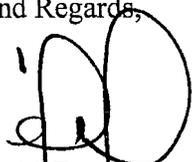
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Especially with the Red Line Transit Project on the horizon, opportunities abound to turn the bus division and adjacent properties into vital, transit-oriented development; understanding fully the requirements for relocation of this facility, perhaps through a public-private partnership, will take on heightened importance over the next few years. I encourage you to include project planning funds in the CTP for FY14 or 15 for this project.

Baltimore City is committed to being a partner in each of the above projects, not only through our Department of Transportation, but also through our Planning Department, Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Housing and Community Development and other relevant agencies. We look forward to working with your staff to advance these projects as quickly as possible.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Khalil Zaied', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Khalil Zaied
Director

cc: Christopher Thomaskutty, Deputy Mayor, Public Safety and Operations
Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director for Administration, DOT