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November 15, 2011

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

Re: Somerset County - Recommended Transportation Improvements

Dear Ms. Swaim-Staley:

On behalf of the Somerset County Commissioners, I'd like to share with you a list of suggested transportation improvements in Somerset County that we would request assistance from the State of Maryland. We have always had an excellent working relationship with your Department, and we look forward to cooperating with you in the future. As a result, I submit the following for your consideration:

1. **Resurfacing U.S. Rte. 13 North between MD 362 and MD 363**: U.S. Route 13 is the major artery serving Somerset County, and perhaps the most heavily-travelled section of this roadway is between MD 362 (Mt. Vernon Road) and MD 363 (Deal Island Road). Located near Princess Anne, this section serves thru traffic and local traffic for the Town of Princess Anne. The northbound lanes between these roads are in need of resurfacing.

2. **Bridge Repairs on Pocomoke River Bridge at U.S. Route 13 North (Worcester County)**: The Pocomoke River Bridge on U.S. Rte. 13 crosses the Pocomoke River which divides Somerset and Worcester Counties and serves residents from both counties as well as thru traffic. The northbound lanes (primarily in Worcester County) are in need of repair.

3. **Deceleration Lane Needed at MD 413 North at Marion**: There is no deceleration lane for vehicles travelling north on MD 413 to make a safe turn on to Tulls Corner Road. Given the speed limit along MD 413, a deceleration lane is needed at this intersection.

4. **Acceleration Land Needed at U.S. Rte. 13 North/Jones Road Intersection**: Several years ago, the U.S. Route 13/Stockyard Road intersection in Wicomico County was redesigned to restrict certain turning movements. Part of this redesign caused traffic to be redirected from this intersection in Wicomico County to the U.S. Route 13/Jones Road intersection in Somerset County. As a result, an acceleration lane is needed on the west side of U.S. Route 13 North at Jones Road to accommodate traffic travelling south on U.S. Rte. 13 and making u-turns and attempting to merge on to U.S. Route 13 North.

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5. **Repair of Railroad Crossings Countywide**: The Norfolk Southern railroad tracks extend along U.S. Rte. 13 from the County's north end to Pocomoke City in Worcester County on the southern end. The tracks cross State-maintained roads at several locations and are in need of repair. In addition, an abandoned railroad line extends along U.S. Rte. 13 from Westover south to Crisfield via MD Rte. 413, crossing a number of County- and State-maintained roads. It is our understanding that this rail line is now owned by the State, and a number of these crossings are also in need of repair.

6. **Flooding Issues on Hall Highway (Crisfield)**: Hall Highway, located within the City of Crisfield, is subject to periodic flooding. The County, requests any assistance the State can provide to identify potential solutions to this flooding issue.

7. **Right-of-way Issues with Natural Gas Pipeline along U.S. Rte. 13 Corridor**: The County Commissioners met with representatives of a local natural gas provider on Nov. 8, 2011, who indicated they would like to extend lines along the U.S. Rte. 13 corridor and would need to secure easements and rights-of-way. Several local businesses have expressed interest in this service. Since the gas lines would be located with the Rte. 13 right-of-way, for planning purposes the County Commissioners would like to know if MDOT anticipates any issues or concerns with this proposal.

Any assistance from the Maryland Department of Transportation towards the accomplishment of these improvements would be greatly appreciated. Should you need any additional information regarding these improvements, please contact Doug Taylor, our County Administrator at (410) 651-0320. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Rex Simpkins
President