



Washington County

M A R Y L A N D

DIVISION OF

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

PLAN REVIEW & PERMITTING | ENGINEERING | CONSTRUCTION

August 21, 2014

The Honorable Secretary James T. Smith Jr.  
State of Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

**RE: 2014 MDOT Tour Meeting  
Washington County Board of County Commissioner  
Transportation Priorities**

Dear Secretary Smith:

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and staff look forward to your visit on October 16, 2014. Listed herein are the Transportation Priorities for your consideration and discussion. Each of these priorities has been identified to be so very important to the economic stability of Washington County and all nine of the Municipalities it serves.

**1. Interstate 81 Widening:** On an average day, Interstate 81 delivers over 62,000 vehicles to the City of Hagerstown, Washington County, and the State of Maryland. Each vehicle carries at least one potential customer for our combined services. The County is quite appreciative of recent plans to improve Interstate 81 through widening. We would like to encourage more be done to address our number one transportation priority. We firmly believe that every dollar spent on a safe and efficient interstate system will pay dividends in the form of more customers, including employers, in our State.

**2. Interstate 70 and Maryland 65 Interchange Improvements:** Over 86,000 trips cross this interchange of state routes daily. The interchange often fails during peak commuting and commerce hours. Washington County will enter an Access Management Plan with the SHA and the City of Hagerstown for Maryland 65. Short term, signal coordination is needed for six (6) signals in less than 4,200 feet; long term, the County will advocate for a full cloverleaf interchange to serve approved and anticipated development.

80 West Baltimore Street | Hagerstown, MD 21740 | P: 240.313.2460 | Hearing Impaired: 7-1-1

WWW.WASHCO-MD.NET



**3. Professional Boulevard Corridor:** This new road and bridge will connect two of the County's busiest roadways in Eastern Boulevard and Robinwood Drive. The connection will reduce emergency vehicle travel times by several minutes, reduce traffic on state routes (US 40 and MD 64), improve access to Hagerstown Community College and Meritus Medical Center, and serve access to fertile economic ground in Mt. Aetna Technology Park. The County and the City of Hagerstown are very appreciative of \$1.12 Million in funding for the bridge design. Construction funding will further the literal and figurative bridge of progress.

**4. Maugans Avenue Coordination:** The County is seeking an SHA project to synchronize three (3) State and two (2) County signals which were improved and interconnected by the County under the Maugans Avenue Corridor Improvement project; we understand work may already be underway.

**5. Aviation Program:** The existing air traffic control tower at Hagerstown Regional Airport has been in operation since 1972; the existing 50 foot tower was used in Florida previously. MDOT's support for a potential private-public partnership to fund a new tower is essential. The County will also benefit from MDOT support for property acquisition to expand the airport footprint and expand economic opportunities. The County seeks support for a tower selection study with continued funding assistance for airport marketing, consistent with the recently completed Hagerstown Regional Airport Marketing Plan.

**6. Transit Program:** The public demand for transit service and route expansion continues. The County added six (6) new shelters for improved service this year; more will be installed throughout the County and in the City of Hagerstown. Additional operational funds would serve to expand transit in accordance with the Transit Development Plan. Service to Boonsboro and other municipalities in the County are priority. Additional operational funding would support staffing the transit center station in downtown Hagerstown.

**7. Railroad Crossings:** The Railroad is a large part of the County's shared heritage with the City of Hagerstown. Last year, 37 County crossings were brought up to current standards, in accordance with a detailed study conducted by the County staff. The County has received positive feedback and promising support from MDOT on a proactive approach to railroad crossing safety. We understand SHA is interested in supporting, even coordination, additional safety improvements at priority locations.

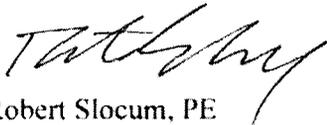
**8. US Route 340:** The congestion and safety of US 340 in Washington County remain a concern. The County would like to encourage the State of Maryland to seek coordinated improvements with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of West Virginia.

**9. Sidewalks:** The County would like to thank MDOT and SHA for the opportunity to participate in the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Our SHA district has been particularly supportive of these and other sidewalk initiatives. Some recent projects are already providing a safe harbor to students and citizens of all ages. The SHA's US 11 (Virginia Avenue) spot location improvements are greatly appreciated. Sidewalk on US 11 from the City of Hagerstown to the Town of Williamsport would connect residential, commercial, and educational land uses along the route. The County is also interested in pedestrian safety on US 40; we understand a study will be undertaken the SHA.

**10. US Bicycle Route:** Washington County is pleased to participate in the United States Bicycle Route System Corridor Plan. We understand that this corridor will be established on the existing road network, largely upon SHA roads; the route will be identified with signing and maps. The County has enjoyed coordination with MDOT's office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Access.

In closing, thank you and MDOT staff for the support and participation in improvements already underway. We are excited to continue upon the progress with the opportunities above.

Sincerely,



Robert Slocum, PE  
Director, Engineering & Construction Management

c: Board of County Commissioners  
Greg Murray, County Administrator  
Sarah Lankford Sprecher, Asst. County Administrator  
Senator George C. Edwards  
Senator Christopher B. Shank  
Senator Ronald N. Young  
Delegate John P. Donoghue  
Delegate Michael J. Hough  
Delegate LeRoy E. Myers  
Delegate Neil C. Parrott  
Delegate Andrew A. Serafini  
Jim Kercheval, Executive Director, Greater Hagerstown Committee  
Rodney Tissue, PE, City Engineer, Hagerstown MD  
Stephen Goodrich, Planning and Zoning  
James Hovis, Office of Community Grant Management

**Kelly Bell**

---

**From:** Pam Cusic  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2014 2:44 PM  
**To:** Victoria Schittone (Savaliski); Kelly Bell  
**Subject:** FW: MD Dept of Transportation - Tour, 2014  
**Attachments:** MDOT Tour Letter 8.21.14.pdf

Kelly: Please log. Thanks.

Pam

**From:** Hart, Krista [<mailto:khart@washco-md.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2014 12:26 PM  
**To:** Secretary MDOT  
**Cc:** Slocum, Robert  
**Subject:** MD Dept of Transportation - Tour, 2014

**Good Afternoon,**

Please find attached, Mr. Rob Slocums, Director - letter regarding the upcoming 2014 MDOT Tour.

This letter consists of a total of 3 pages; if all pages are not received, please reply.

Thank you.

Thank you,  
Krista Hart  
Office Manager  
240.313.2412 / fax 240.313.2401



**Washington County**

**M A R Y L A N D**

**DIVISION OF**

**ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT**