

**TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND**  
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April 23, 2015

The Honorable Pete Rahn  
Secretary Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Drive  
P.O. Box 548, Mail Stop 200  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

**Re: Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Priorities**

Dear Secretary Rahn:

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is pleased to submit the below list of Regional Transportation Priorities for you to include in the FY 2016-2021 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). Once again, our regional transportation priorities have the endorsement of the Boards of County Commissioners of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, and were unanimously endorsed by the Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee (RIAC) for Southern Maryland and adopted by the Executive Board of the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland.

Our Top Regional Priority *Highway* Project continues to be the Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement with accompanying improvements of the Route 2/4 corridor and the MD 235 interchange. This project will relieve commuter congestion, improve safety, properly position the Patuxent River Naval Air Station for future Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), improve emergency evacuation plans and provide bicycle tourism opportunities between the Three Notch Trail and Solomon's Island.

The Thomas Johnson Bridge Project has been included in the CTP since FY 2007. With the new funds allocated in FY 2015, engineering and construction of the replacement bridge and the interchange at MD 4 and MD 235 will continue to be a multi-million dollar capital investment, for which the funding will be appropriated over many more years. We at the Tri-County Council urge the continued recognition of this vital project to the Southern Maryland Region, through programming incremental funding for engineering and/or right-of-way acquisition continuing in the FY 2016 budget year and beyond.

Our Top Regional *Transit* Priority is the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Project to provide fixed-route, high-capacity transit service in the MD 5/US 301 corridor from the Branch Avenue Metro Station to Waldorf/White Plains in Charles County. Maryland Transit Administration's continued efforts to work with both Charles County and Prince George's County to advance the planning and development of this critical transit line are greatly appreciated. We look forward to the inclusion of the Project Planning funding in the CTP to

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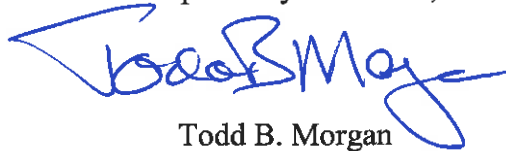
serve our rapidly growing population in Southern Maryland. This Rapid Transit Investment will have a significant impact on the redevelopment of Downtown Waldorf, and the improvement of air quality of the Region, as well as significantly reducing the congestion within the Washington D.C. metropolitan area.

In addition, Southern Maryland's Regionally Significant Projects also include:

- Construction of a controlled access highway option for US 301 in Waldorf that will balance the needs of residential and business communities while minimizing the impacts to cultural, social and natural resources.
- Enhancement of Commuter Bus Services within the three counties as well as the development of additional Park & Ride Lots in Charles and St. Mary's Counties.
- The Upgrade of MD Route 2/4 from the southern intersection of MD 745 (Main Street) at Industry Lane to north Auto Drive that provides widening to six lanes with access controls and turning restrictions. As well as the continued funding for Calvert County on Phase 2 of construction.

It is vitally important that we build on the current progress with funding of the planning, engineering and right-of-way acquisition for these urgently needed and long-standing regional priorities in the coming fiscal year. We continue to be confident that the Maryland Department of Transportation, working with the Tri-County Council, and our local government partners, will do everything possible to make sure that essential steps are included in the FY 2016-2021 CTP to continue making progress of these priorities toward future implementation. We thank you for your support, consideration, and affirmative action with respect to these important Southern Maryland Regional Projects.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd B. Morgan  
Chairman

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Cc: The Honorable Debra Davis, RIAC Chair  
The Honorable Steven R. Weems, President, Calvert County Commissioners  
The Honorable Peter Murphy, President, Charles County Commissioners  
The Honorable Randy Guy, President, St. Mary's County Commissioners  
John Hartline, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland