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Slaughenhaupt
Jr.



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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April 19, 2016



Mr. Pete K. Rahn, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Secretary Rahn:

The Board of Calvert County Commissioners congratulates you on your successful first year as Transportation Secretary in Maryland! It has been a pleasure to work with you and representatives from the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) various business units. Projects within our County have moved along at a good pace, and we are pleased with progress on all fronts. Enclosed are our priority transportation projects, and we want to draw your attention and interest to transportation issues in Calvert County and Southern Maryland. We are grateful to have benefited in the last few years from the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013. We were especially excited to see the Thomas Johnson Bridge, a project critical to national homeland security as well as safety and the economy in Southern Maryland, move toward the design and engineering phases. This project is very much needed, and we appreciate it is moving forward; although, since the project does have funding for the design and engineering phase, we would like to see it progress a bit faster. We hope further funds will keep it moving in future years.

With expanded parking now available through the completed Prince Frederick and Dunkirk Park and Rides, we now have a dedicated commuter bus route to the Suitland Metro and adjoining campuses of National Maritime Intelligence Center/Office of Naval Intelligence, National Archives, Naval Oceanographic Office, and the Census Bureau, continuing into Washington, D.C. We have wanted this for our citizens for many years, since many residents commute to those locations; this was significant for us, and your Maryland Transit Administration folks came through.

We would like to acknowledge and thank MDOT for the construction funding for Phase 2 of the MD 2/4 project to widen and improve MD 2/4 through Prince Frederick. This is a critical project for both the County and the State, in terms of keeping traffic and the economy in Calvert County moving. It comes at an important time for Calvert, in that we are updating our Master Plan for Calvert County, and this road plays a vital role in our County Seat and Master Plan. We hope future funds will continue to keep this long-term plan of widening the length of MD 2/4 from just south of Prince Frederick to the Calvert/Anne Arundel County line moving forward. In particular, we are looking for Phases 3A and 3B, just north of the present Phase to be considered for engineering and design to keep this project evolving, so a bottleneck does not continue to impede traffic through our County Seat. We have to compliment you on the quality and professionalism of the Project Managers on this project and their willingness to work with the County on the details as team players, moving it along; we have tried, in turn, to be good team players, too!

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We have also been listing a major project for one of our municipalities. The Town of North Beach has an 800-foot segment of MD 261, from 9th Street to the southern Anne Arundel County line, which experiences serious flooding during coastal storms or heavy thunderstorms. Particularly dangerous, is the inability of emergency services to reach residents in need of assistance in those Anne Arundel communities, especially during the very storms that cause not only the flooding but other related emergencies; your help with this project is noted and very much appreciated. We urge that it be kept moving forward with funding for engineering and design, so it can keep pace with the Town of North Beach's flood prevention project.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the State Highway Administration (SHA) for the System Preservation and Community Safety Enhancement Project providing redesign of the intersection at MD 231 (Church Street) and MD 765 (Main Street), with new or replacement sidewalks along both routes. Pedestrian and traffic safety in the area will be improved and provides ADA compliance throughout; construction is almost complete and better than promised! Furthermore, we appreciate and support the continuing progress of the safety enhancements along MD 4 in Anne Arundel County, just north of our County line, where MD 258 and Talbot Road join MD 4; this stretch of road lacks shoulders and possesses serious safety issues. Crashes occur there frequently, causing serious delays for residents and commuters traveling into Prince Georges County and the District of Columbia. SHA has done an excellent job of keeping the study, and now the design phase, of planned safety improvements moving. We urge continued funding through construction.

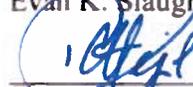
We hope MDOT can once again consider our transportation priorities and keep them in mind when formulating this year's transportation budget. We look forward to working with you and your department during the upcoming year.

Our contact for this project is Patricia Haddon, Principal Planner, Department of Community Planning & Building. Ms. Haddon may be reached at 410-535-1600, extension 2631.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND


Evan K. Slaughenhoupt Jr., President


Tom Hejl, Vice President


Mike Hart


Pat Nutter


Steven R. Weems

Enclosure

cc: Mayor Mark Frazer, Town of North Beach
Mayor Bruce Wahl, Town of Chesapeake Beach
Southern Maryland Delegation