

# THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

203 South Fourth Street - Courthouse - Room 207, Oakland, Maryland 21550  
www.garrettcounty.org • countycommissioners@garrettcounty.org  
301-334-8970 301-895-3188 FAX 301-334-5000

## Board of Commissioners

Paul C. Edwards  
James C. Hinebaugh, Jr.  
S. Larry Tichnell

May 9, 2016

## County Administrator

Kevin G. Null

## County Attorney

Gorman E. Getty III

Pete K. Rahn, Secretary  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Secretary Rahn:

This letter is written to provide an overview of the transportation priorities established by the Board of Garrett County Commissioners relating to Maryland Department of Transportation's major capital improvements for primary and secondary development programs as well as safety and enhancement programs in the Consolidated Transportation Plan. We at the County firmly believe that now is the time for creative partnerships that will further mutual goals. Both the County and the State desire to stimulate the economy, support community vitality and promote environmental stewardship. We believe this year's priority list clearly demonstrates those goals. Partnerships to further these goals will be most effective when they involve not just various levels of government but also private entities that share our vision of transportation within the County, for the region and in the state.

We would like to highlight our greater transportation vision which is not just locally but also regionally focused, and is especially exemplified by our transit and regional priorities. *Our vision is to link municipal revitalization to pedestrian and biking opportunities through an enhanced transportation system thereby stimulating economic development, increasing alternative transportation options, encouraging healthy lifestyles, decreasing traffic pollution and highlighting the region's natural resources.*

The Board has categorized the list based on functional areas and our #1 priorities in each are:

- Planning Priority #1:
  - Truck Corridor Feasibility Study
- Safety Priority #1:
  - Oakland By-Pass
- System Preservation Priority #1:
  - Stormwater Drain Repair of US 219 at Burger King, Oakland
- Sidewalk/Streetscape Priorities
  - Sidewalk on Rt. 40 from Casselman Bridge Park to River Road
- Trail and Pedestrian Priority #1:
  - Pedestrian Crossing at the corner of 219 & Mosser Road
- Transit
  - Transit Service Expansion
- Regional Transportation Priority #1:
  - US 219 N Reconstruction/Relocation

Garrett County acknowledges and is greatly appreciative of the successful projects that have been completed or are on-going in our county. Of special note is the completion of the sidewalk along Oakland Drive to create a safe, pedestrian friendly environment for students walking to and from Southern Garrett High School. The perseverance of your District Office in the face of setbacks was noted and appreciated. In addition work on the Oakland Streetscape project has commenced, so that project was also able to be eliminated from the priority list this year.

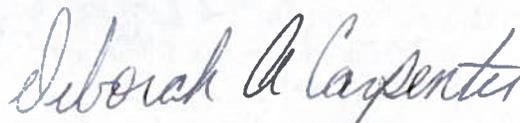
We have experienced a rejuvenated spirit of cooperation and communication with both our District Office and the Office of Planning & Preliminary Engineering. The progress made on the US 219 N Reconstruction/ Relocation project is a perfect example of cooperation and communication leading to progress on a project that has lain dormant for too many years. We appreciate the action of the Governor committing to the completion of this project, but acknowledge that getting past the red tape at the federal level has been a struggle. While the County has had the opportunity to act as a true partner in this project, we are frustrated at the slowness of the process which seems to be bogged down with repetitive and time-consuming requirements from FHWA, not least of which is the requirement that no alignment be chosen at the conclusion of the PEL. After years of review, enough analysis should be in existence to make that determination. Until that determination is made, development is hampered at that location. One alignment will cut through one of our few PFA areas, effectively halting development at that site. We currently have a potential tenant for that site who, understandably, will not commit to that location until we can give an assurance that the land will not be acquired by SHA for a road. We respectfully ask that your office continue to push for an alignment to be chosen as quickly as possible.

As per Chapter 725 of the 2010 Laws of Maryland, we have attached our list of Priority Projects with the required supporting information set forth herein. Thank you for considering our transportation priorities in Garrett County. We look forward to continuing our successful relationship as we work together to further the transportation planning needs of the county, region and state.

Respectfully,



Paul C. Edwards, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners



Deborah A. Carpenter, Director  
Department of Planning & Land Management

cc: Senator George C. Edwards  
Delegate Wendell Beitzel  
Donald Halligan, Director Planning & Capital Programming  
Anthony Crawford, District Engineering