



Welcome...

to the **Maryland Transportation Plan**

From Maryland Transportation Secretary John D. Porcari

This is an exciting time at the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). We are in the midst of updating the Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP), which will set the State's vision for transportation over the next 20 years. In the coming months, we will finalize the MTP Goals and Objectives, analyze current and future conditions and develop implementation strategies to ensure that the Statewide Transportation Plan becomes a living document that serves the needs of the State.

Since we began this process last fall, we've engaged citizens across our State in some truly unique ways. Our county libraries have been an indispensable resource in helping us raise awareness about the MTP and gather public input. People in every county have expressed their needs and concerns as well as their transportation vision for the future. We have heard from a variety of our population that encompasses the social, cultural and economic diversity of our State.

This Plan is about and for you – the users of Maryland's transportation system. In this newsletter, you will read about what we have done, what we have heard, and where we will go from here. I hope reading this newsletter informs you about the MTP and encourages you to become part of Maryland's transportation future.



www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning

2009 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

A Progress Report to the People of Maryland

Your Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Maryland Transportation Plan (MTP) establishes a 20-year vision for transportation in the State and helps to guide Statewide improvements across all means of transportation, including highways, tunnels, bridges, rail, buses, water ports, airports, bike paths and sidewalks. For all of these ways to travel in Maryland, the MTP sets Goals and Objectives which, in turn, guide the development of the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), or the six-year Statewide capital transportation budget. The State also uses the MTP Goals and Objectives to develop performance measures to assess how effectively we are attaining our mission.

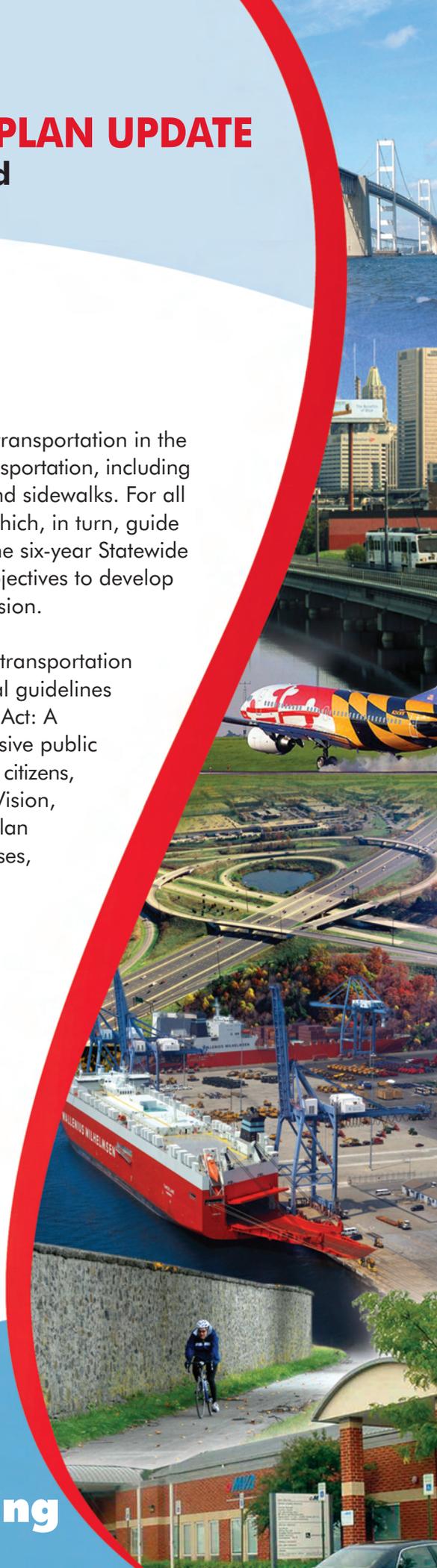
Maryland updates the MTP every five years to address current and future transportation challenges, needs, and conditions. The revised MTP also will meet Federal guidelines outlined in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Critical to the success of the MTP is extensive public outreach to engage you, as a transportation user, as well as numerous other citizens, agencies, and interested organizations, to help us revise the long-range Vision, Goals and Objectives for our transportation system. We strive to create a plan that reflects and responds to the needs of all Maryland's residents, businesses, local governments, and communities.

Public Outreach

Over the past few months, we have engaged thousands of Maryland citizens and stakeholders representing the diverse interests in the State in the MTP update process. We've created an interactive Web site with an on-line survey and a comment form to solicit feedback as well as to provide updated information about the MTP. To further broaden our outreach, we have developed an extensive mailing list to inform residents about the progress of the MTP. In addition, we conducted multiple interviews and meetings to interact directly with people who are concerned about our future transportation system and to deeply delve into issues of Statewide importance.



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Consulting and Coordinating With Partner Agencies

As part of Maryland Transportation Plan development, MDOT engaged in a comprehensive consultation process with local and State agencies responsible for land-use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation and historic preservation. In speaking with these agencies and reviewing their planning documents, we broadened our perspective and understanding of the linkages between their respective missions and ours. As a result, the MTP embodies a synergy with planning efforts throughout the State.

Partner Agencies We Consulted

- Maryland Aviation Administration
- Maryland Port Administration
- Maryland Transit Administration
- Maryland Transportation Authority
- Motor Vehicle Administration
- State Highway Administration
- Department of Business and Economic Development
- Department of the Environment
- Department of Housing and Community Development
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Planning
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council
- Cumberland Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Salisbury-Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Wilmington Area Planning Council





We Conducted Outreach To A Range Of Stakeholders:

- Bicycle and pedestrian
- Business and economic development
- Disabled and aging
- Emergency services & management
- Environmental advocacy & justice
- Farming & rural
- Freight
- Motorist & trucking
- Planning
- Port & airport
- Preservationist
- Real estate developers
- Tourism promoters
- Transit providers (i.e., rail & bus)

Partnerships We Created

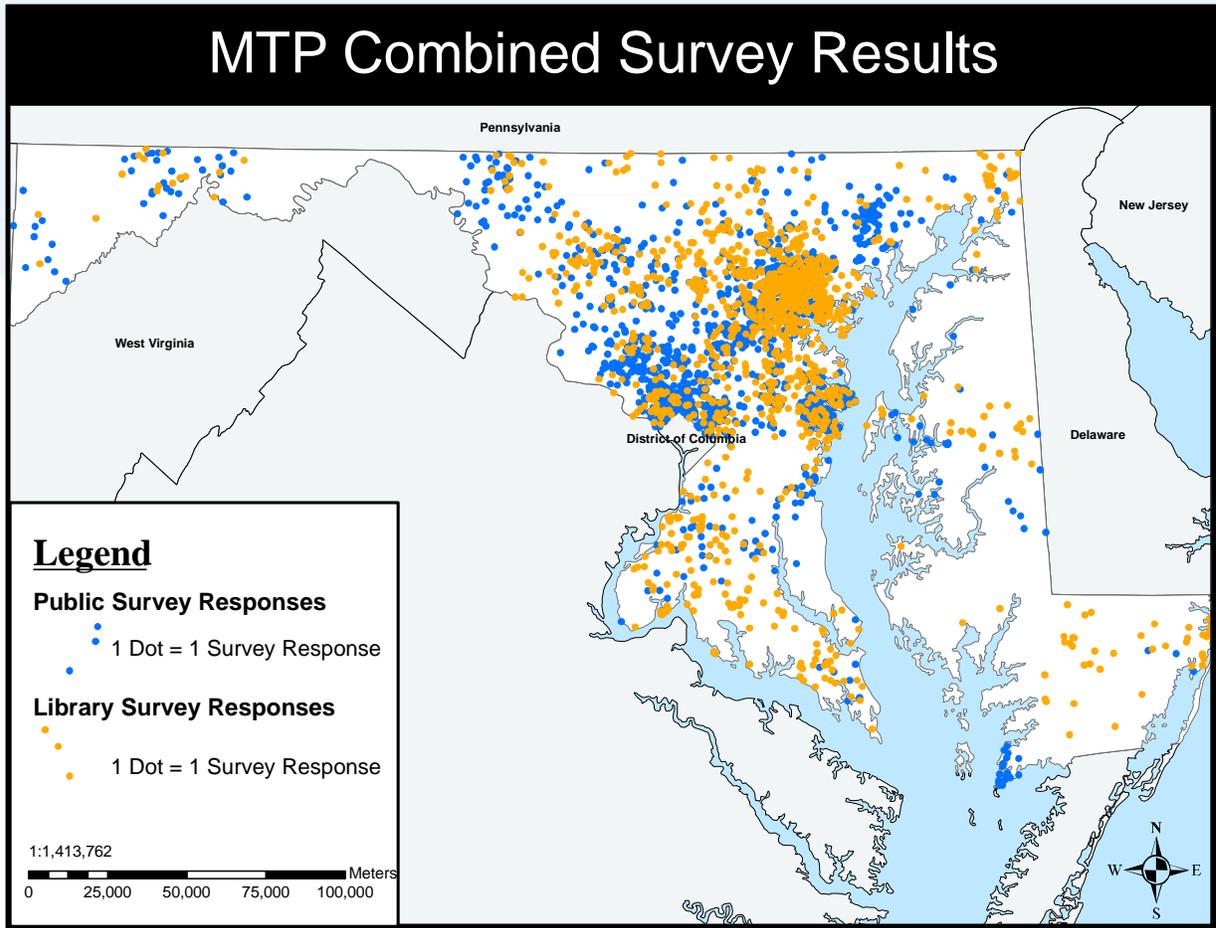
For this MTP update, we tried a fresh approach to gathering public input. We developed collaborative partnerships with our State's county library systems where library patrons accessing the Internet were encouraged to take an on-line survey about their transportation needs, concerns and priorities. The partnership began as a pilot with the Baltimore County Public Library and rapidly grew to include 22 county library systems and the City of Baltimore. The on-line survey was available from October 5, 2007, until January 31, 2008, with specific timeframes varying by location. Participation exceeded our expectations, with residents from across the State getting involved in the planning process!

We're Listening To You!

We've heard from thousands of residents and stakeholders from all corners of Maryland. You've told us about concerns ranging from specific intersections and bus routes to Statewide issues about climate change and economic competitiveness. One of our greatest challenges now is to take all of your input and extract cross-cutting themes to develop new MTP Goals and Objectives. Some key issues that we heard expressed across the State are shown to the right.



MTP Combined Survey Results



Mobility

Maryland residents desire improved mobility throughout the State. Some of the key suggestions you provided were:

- **Alternatives** – Encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation by offering viable choices and by promoting carpooling, telecommuting and flexible work hours;
- **Integration** – Create a seamless, integrated, multi-modal transportation system connecting population and employment centers; and
- **Capacity** – Expand network capacity to meet the growing demand for transportation across all modes of transportation.

Human And Natural Environment

Maryland citizens have a deep concern for the environment and suggest that the State:

- **Preserve the natural environment** by reducing carbon emissions and protecting open space and environmentally-sensitive areas;
- **Enhance communities** by coordinating land use and transportation and incorporating smart growth principles into transportation planning and development; and
- **Preserve Maryland's heritage** by protecting historic, cultural and natural resources.

Maintenance And Preservation

As you know, transportation infrastructure is aging. We understand that you want the State to:

- **Maintain existing infrastructure** in a state of good repair; and
- **Preserve, upgrade or replace existing** infrastructure before focusing on new capacity.

What's On The Horizon...

We met with our internal Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from all of Maryland's Modal Administrations, the Maryland Transportation Authority, and the Maryland Department of Transportation Office of Planning and Capital Programming, to present what we had heard from months of outreach and to begin discussing the draft Vision, Goals and Objectives for the MTP. The guidance we received from the Advisory Committee will allow us to continue refining the Vision, Goals and Objectives that we presented at a meeting with the State's senior transportation leadership in February. In the Spring, we will post maps illustrating current and future demand for transportation in Maryland in addition to the draft Goals and Objectives on our Web site at: www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning, which will be available for public comment.

We will continue to engage stakeholders by asking for help in identifying how we can implement the MTP and make sure that plans and goals developed at the local, county, and regional level are consistent with our Statewide goals. As Secretary Porcari stated, we want to ensure that the MTP becomes a living document that serves the needs of the State and its citizens.

We still have a lot of work left and hope that you will continue to be actively involved in the development of the Statewide Transportation Plan! Please visit our Web site, submit a comment form, or contact:

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