

between the agencies responsible for conformity ensuring a successful conformity process.

Each MPO has an approved, documented, and required public involvement process that is used in support of developing their respective LRTPs and TIPs. MDOT has also developed a public involvement plan which serves to guide public involvement outside the National Environmental Policy Act process. The public participation process for this Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and all of the Transportation Improvement Programs referenced by this document will also meet the Federal Transit Administration public participation requirements for the Maryland Transit Administration's Program of Projects.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

In order to receive federal funds, Federal legislation mandates that states adopt a specific process for selecting projects for implementation known as the STIP. The Maryland STIP is a four to five-year, fiscally constrained, and prioritized set of transportation projects that is compiled from local and regional plans. STIP projects are selected through an annual development process. The Maryland STIP is financially constrained by the revenues reasonably expected to be available through the STIP's funding period using year of expenditure dollars. In Maryland, all years of the STIP list projects and appropriate project groupings with specific funds identified for each fiscal year. Projects (or phases of projects) are listed only if full funding is anticipated to be available for the project (or appropriate project phase) within the time period established for its completion. All projects and funding details in the STIP have been scrutinized and approved by the Maryland General Assembly and by the Governor through the State's annual budget process. The STIP is comprised of these parts: the Executive Summary and Project List, the seven TIPs, and the CTP. MTA and SHA project information is identified directly from the CTP and then formatted and translated for STIP and TIP clarification. Please keep in mind that the CTP, and therefore the STIP, provide an annual snapshot of how MDOT is planning to program funding. Not all available funding is programmed; as project needs change, the program will change to reflect the best and most efficient use of state and federal dollars through the day to day budgeting process. These changes will be reflected in more timely amendments and modifications.

■ **4.0 Maryland's STIP Development**

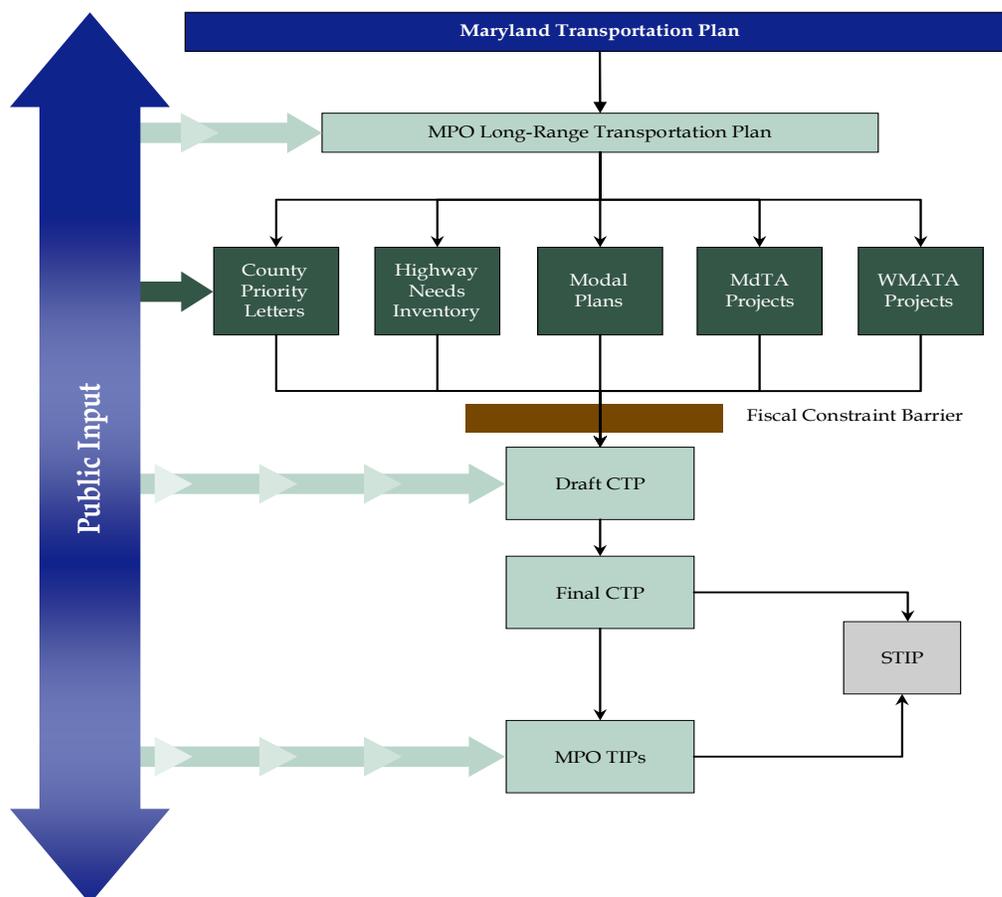
Process Overview

The STIP development process begins with the MTP and MPO LRTPs (see Figure 4.1). These long-range plans are the foundation for transportation planning in Maryland. The STIP components are identified through a cooperative process between MDOT, the Modal Administrations, SHA District Engineers, and county staff. MPOs conduct regular meetings to coordinate transportation planning efforts. The Highway Needs Inventory and Priority Letters contain specific project lists. The Annotated Code of Maryland Title 8, section 612(c) states:

“the local governing body and a majority of the local legislative delegation shall establish a list of priorities from among those secondary system projects listed in the needs inventory and the Administration shall engage in initial project planning upon the request of the local governing body and a majority of the local legislative delegation in the order established in the list of priorities.”

In other words, the Priority Letter represents each county’s own internal ranking of projects deemed most important based on local need and local input. This is an effective way for counties to convey to MDOT the need for specific transportation projects and investments. Priority Letters involve requests for a wide variety of project funding – from transit improvements, highway reconstruction, and sidewalk construction to bridge improvements, bike path development, and highway safety projects. In some cases, counties reserve portions of their own funds in order to accelerate project implementation, conduct feasibility and planning studies, ensure that projects are kept on-track, and provide a funding match as required for certain types of projects. The modal share (highway, transit, etc.) of the projects listed in Priority Letters ranges from county to county. In more heavily populated and densely developed counties, there is a stronger focus on public transportation and improving access to public transportation from roadway networks. Counties with smaller populations and lower densities tend to focus on highway and arterial improvements, although most counties request some element of transit funding.

Figure 4.1 STIP Development Process



Priority letters are typically received in the spring-summer as the draft CTP/STIP is developed. All recent priority letters can be found on the MDOT website: http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office%20of%20Planning%20and%20Capital%20Program%20ming/County_Priority_Letters/Letters.html. MDOT conducts several meetings with county staff, MPOs, and SHA district engineers to discuss the priorities listed. At the end of the summer, MDOT meets with local officials at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) conference to continue discussions about priority projects.

Once the official draft CTP/STIP is complete, MDOT conducts the Annual Consultation Process, also known as the Fall Tour where the Secretary of Transportation and the Modal Administrators visit each of the State's 23 counties and Baltimore City to present and solicit input on the draft CTP/STIP. In preparation for the Tour, MDOT conducts staff level meetings with each of the Counties and Baltimore City called the Pre-Tour to solicit staff input prior to the actual Tour. At the Tour itself, local elected officials, State legislators, and citizens are generally present at these meetings. Table 4.2 lists the 2013 CTP Fall Tour schedule. After the Fall Tour, MDOT reviews any comments and concerns and uses this input, along with updated revenue forecasts, to develop the final CTP/STIP.

Table 4.2 2014-2019 CTP - 2013 Fall Tour Annual Consultation Meetings

2013 Date	County	Time	Location
September 16	Anne Arundel	3:00 p.m.	Annapolis
September 19	Carroll	1:30 p.m.	Westminster
September 23	Howard	7:00 p.m.	Laurel
September 24	Charles	6:00 p.m.	La Plata
September 25	Wicomico	7:00p.m.	Salisbury
October 3	Washington	10:00 a.m.	Hagerstown
	Allegany	3:00 p.m.	Cumberland
October 4	Garrett	10:00 a.m.	Oakland
October 7	Baltimore City	10:00 a.m.	Baltimore
October 8	Queen Anne's	2:00 p.m.	Centerville
	Kent	7:00 p.m.	Chestertown
October 9	Harford	2:00 p.m.	Bel Air
October 17	Montgomery	7:00 p.m.	Rockville
October 22	Talbot	4:00 p.m.	Easton
October 23	Baltimore	1:30 p.m.	Towson
October 29	Calvert	10:30 a.m.	Prince Frederick
	St. Mary's	3:00 p.m.	Leonardtwn
October 31	Frederick	1:00 p.m.	Frederick
November 1	Cecil	2:30 p.m.	Elkton
November 5	Worcester	10:30 a.m.	Snow Hill
	Somerset	2:00 p.m.	Princess Anne
	Dorchester	7:00 p.m.	Cambridge
November 6	Prince George's	2:00 p.m.	Greenbelt
November 14	Caroline	6:00 p.m.	Denton

MDOT also engages in a range of consultative activities with representatives of local agencies and elected officials from Maryland's non-metropolitan areas. In fact, a number of organizations and groups representing Maryland's rural counties and transportation interests regularly present before the General Assembly and Secretary of Transportation to communicate their needs and lobby for specific projects and funding initiatives, such as the Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM) – a Statewide advocate of public, private, and non-profit transit agencies. Other activities include SHA District Offices, where continuous relationships with local agencies and officials help to identify highway, transit, and other transportation capital needs for inclusion in the STIP and CTP. MDOT also attends Maryland Municipal League meetings and the Maryland Association of Counties meetings as another way to foster transportation planning coordination. The Maryland Rural Consultation Process can be found here: http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/Office%20of%20Planning%20and%20Capital%20Programming/STIPandTIP/Documents/MDOT_NonMetropolitanConsultativeProcessBrochure.pdf

Once the final CTP has been developed after public input, it is submitted to the General Assembly for its approval. The final CTP is used in creating the MPO TIPs – all information is the same. Once the final CTP and each TIP have been approved, they are brought together into the current STIP. The CTP is developed every year; however, the TIPs and the STIP are not necessarily updated every year.

To further make the transportation planning process accessible to the public, MDOT makes the Maryland Transportation Plan, the CTP, and the STIP available online for the public's information and use at <http://www.mdot.state.md.us>. All MPOs also post their TIP online with other appropriate reports, studies, surveys, press releases, and pamphlets.

The public participation process for this Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and all of the Transportation Improvement Programs referenced by this document will also meet the Federal Transit Administration public participation requirements for the Maryland Transit Administration's Program of Projects.

MDOT Planning Factors and Coordination

In 23 CFR § 450.206 (a) federal guidelines require that each state carry out a continual, cooperative, and comprehensive statewide transportation planning process that provides for the consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services. Some examples of how MDOT has implemented these guidelines are detailed below.

System Preservation

Keeping Maryland's transportation system safe and in good condition are top priorities of MDOT. For example, roads must be re-paved, safety improvements implemented, aging bridges rehabilitated, and buses and trains repaired and replaced. In the face of growing travel demand, increasing construction and equipment costs, limited resources, and ever-present needs for system expansion, MDOT must make the most efficient use of its existing system. To ensure the most productive use of the State's transportation system, asset maintenance and preservation are prioritized to extend the useful life of existing facilities and equipment in a fiscally responsible manner. MDOT seeks to maximize the value and performance of current resources in order to capture all of the benefits from the existing system before making new investments. Currently, system preservation accounts for 46% of MDOT's capital expenditures in FY 14 and 40% in FY 15.

Safety and Security

Ensuring the safety and security of Maryland residents and others who travel through the State's airports, seaports and on buses, highways and trains is vitally important. MDOT is committed to providing safe travel to all its customers and to protecting the safety of MDOT's workforce and contractors. Safety considerations are integral to all MDOT design and operational activities. In addition, threats to the security of travelers and to transportation assets have received heightened attention and MDOT is committed to taking advantage of new technologies and cost effective counter-measures to reduce transportation system vulnerabilities. Each Modal Administration institutes both safety and security measures, with MDOT continuing to support these actions and strategies across the State transportation system.

The Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is a statewide, coordinated, and strategic, traffic safety plan that provides the framework for reducing highway fatalities and serious injuries on all public streets and highways in Maryland. It establishes overall goals and objectives as well as strategies within key emphasis areas. The SHSP has most recently been updated to cover years 2011-2015, with a concentrated effort to become even more strategic and focused. The number of emphasis areas was reduced from 14 to six. In addition, the SHSP has incorporated the AASHTO/FHWA supported *Toward Zero Deaths* philosophy as its underlying principal. The Maryland Highway Safety Office is in complete concurrence with the *Toward Zero Deaths* initiative. This principal sets goals of reducing motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries by one-half by 2030. The SHSP interim annual targets through the life of this particular SHSP are based on this methodology and have been set accordingly.

The SHSP provides the framework for Maryland to apply the best solutions to solving its most critical highway safety problems. The continued active involvement of various stakeholders, along with the unwavering focus on the measurable objectives set forth in the SHSP, ensures broad support throughout the five-year life of the plan, promises effective implementation of the plan, and supplies guidance to reach the ultimate goal of saving lives.²

Environmental Planning Factors

Several changes have occurred in recent years that have served to revolutionize the management of environmental factors in constructing and maintaining our transportation system. Maryland law now requires that stormwater be managed through Environmental Site Design (ESD) to the maximum extent practicable. This has caused transportation agencies to move away from large-scale practices such as ponds, and to instead incorporate numerous smaller, less engineered practices, such as sand filters and grassed swales, into the design of projects.

In December 2010 USEPA established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of nutrients and sediment that may be discharged to the Bay and its tidal tributaries. Under the TMDL, Maryland and its local governments have developed Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) that will guide our efforts to substantially reduce pollutants discharged from

² <http://www.marylandroads.com/index.aspx?pageid=240>

our facilities. As part of that effort SHA developed a suite of best management practices to reduce the impacts of the system including:

- Pavement reduction,
- Large scale tree planting in SHA rights of way,
- Partnering with local governments to identify watershed-based wetland and stream restoration opportunities, and
- Enhancing existing and planned wetland and stream restoration efforts by integrating riparian buffer and tree plantings into site designs,

In support of State goals for Green House Gas (GHG) reduction and reduction of other emissions, MDOT has coordinated its transportation policies and programs to reduce dependence on automobiles by incorporating travel alternatives such as telework, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit options, as appropriate, in the design of projects. To encourage the use of clean vehicles, MDOT has installed 32 electric vehicle charging stations at its facilities, with plans for an additional 5-10 locations.

In addition to GHG reduction, MDOT is also planning for the resilience of the system as we respond to the growing impacts of climate change through vulnerability assessments and the incorporation of climate and sea level considerations into our planning processes.

Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan

On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) that went into effect on October 1, 2012. The program changes in this legislation included the repeal of the Section 5316 and 5317 Programs and establishment of an enhanced Section 5310 Program that serves as a single formula program to support mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Since the MTA is still administering funding through the JARC and New Freedom Programs, and the revised Section 5310 Program guidance is pending, SAFETEA-LU required that projects funded through FTA's Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities), Section 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute – JARC), and Section 5317 (New Freedom) Programs “must be derived from a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan.” This provision is aimed at improving transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults and individuals with lower incomes, and ensuring that communities are coordinating transportation resources provided through multiple Federal programs.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) led the development of a statewide plan and five regional Coordinated Transportation Plans in October 2007. These plans were updated in 2010. These planning efforts not only cover Section 5310, JARC, and New Freedom Programs, but also include the wide spectrum of services offered by Maryland's locally operated transit systems and local human service providers. The Coordinated Transportation Plans assessed the transportation needs of older adults, people with disabilities and low income workers, developed strategies for addressing identified gaps and approving efficiencies of services, and prioritized specific strategies for implementation. In addition, these plans identify potential organizations or structures to implement coordinated activities and potential new coordinated services.