



**Queen
Anne's
County**

County Commissioners:

James J. Moran, At Large
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
Stephen Wilson, District 2
Robert Charles Buckey, District 3
Mark A. Anderson, District 4

**THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY**

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July 26, 2016

The Honorable Pete K. Rahn, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 548
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076-0548

Re: Queen Anne's County Transportation Priority Letter - 2017

Dear Secretary Rahn:

The "*safety and mobility for our citizens*" is the driving factor towards the establishment of our local transportation priorities. Attached is a listing of the transportation priorities for Queen Anne's County for inclusion in the 2017-2022 Consolidated Transportation Plan.

Specifically we wish to call your attention to our highest priorities which include funding final engineering and construction of the US Route 50 & MD 213 interchange, funding for additional capacity for the Bay Bridge, critical transportation improvements on Kent Island due to Bay Bridge congestion and improvements for operations of local transit.

William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bay Bridge

As projected in the Bay Bridge Life Cycle Cost Analysis, completed by MDOT in December 2015, traffic impacts and congestion within the Bay Bridge Corridor will continue to deteriorate. The increase in traffic and limited capacity of the Bay Bridge as the single crossing of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland will result in continued and consistent delays if not addressed now. The delays on this primary transportation and freight corridor impacts the daily operations of many Maryland residents and businesses but impacts a disproportionate number of Queen Anne's County residents making it a top priority. It is vital to the safety and mobility of Queen Anne's County Citizens that steps be taken now to move forward with the NEPA process, design and funding of Bay Bridge improvements. Due to both the local impact and regional significance of this facility it is essential that the planning and funding for additional safety and capacity improvements begin now.



Maryland Route 18

Recognizing that the NEPA study, design and funding improvements to the Bay Bridge will take time, Queen Anne's County has identified vital interim improvements in the 2016 Kent Island Transportation Plan to improve the movement of traffic on Kent Island. The top priority of the many improvements identified in the Kent Island Transportation Plan is to enhance the safety and capacity Maryland Route 18. The specific project is to initiate comprehensive roadway and pedestrian improvements from Castle Marina Road to the Kent Narrows. As the only alternative route to using Route 50/301 this project will serve to increase mobility and eliminate routine congestion as well as seasonal traffic gridlock. The Kent Island Transportation Plan is posted on our website at www.qac.org/DocumentCenter/View/4460.

US Route 50 & MD 213 Interchange

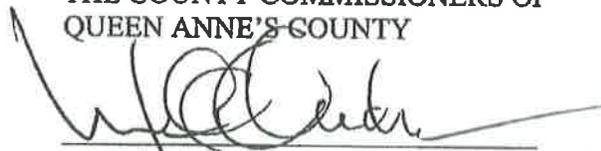
Construction of an interchange at US Route 50 & MD 213 is a long standing priority for Queen Anne's County. Over the last 20 years land acquisition and design work has occurred clearing the way for final engineering and construction of the project. As Route 404 is being dualized to add capacity and the through traffic on US Route 50 continues to increase, this overpass becomes essential to safely move traffic between US Route 50 & MD 213 as well as providing safe access to Chesapeake College, our regional Community College serving five counties. This project is the number one component of the long-range US 50 Ocean Gateway project.

Transit

The County requests continued support of our transit services and hope for increases in our two services as we have had level funding for eight years. We would request continued support of the Capital Preventative Maintenance assistance which is essential to our transit service. Also, we appreciate additional funding to purchase vehicles to help replace our aging fleet, computers, Front End Alignment Machine and miscellaneous mounting hardware for new Ipads. The County would like to add our appreciation for supporting the bus wash rehab program. To better serve the mobility of our citizens our local government is assisting with staff to help expand our northern County service and we would like to ask for additional assistance with operating funds to help with that expansion.

The Board of Queen Anne's County Commissioners appreciates your consideration of our priorities and inclusion of them in the Consolidate Transportation Plan. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with MDOT to implement our priorities.

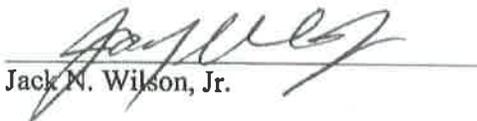
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Mark A. Anderson, President



James J. Moran



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