



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ROBERT J. SLOCUM

March 31, 2017

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

**RE: 2017 MDOT Tour Meeting
Board of County Commissioner Priorities**

Dear Secretary Rahn:

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and staff look forward to your 2017 visit. Please consider these MDOT Transportation Priorities in the forthcoming CTP.

Interstate 81 Widening: As evidenced by the overwhelming support for the FASTLANE Grant application, a third lane of Interstate 81 is entirely necessary. The project has long been approved, yet falls short on State funding. Interstate 81, combined with Interstate 70, is Maryland's opportunity to serve business, tourism, and commuters in Maryland. In both safety and economic well-being, a cost effective widening plan will pay dividends for Maryland. Your visits and support are appreciated.

Interstate 70 and Maryland 65 Interchange Improvements: Over 80,000 vehicles cross this interchange daily. Traffic will grow substantially upon construction of a major retail anchor. An innovative and economical interchange design has risen to be the most promising alternative. The interchange currently serves the Premium Outlets to the north while others are building to the South. Together the development will compete for Maryland in tourism while serving Maryland residents.

Sidewalks: The County would like to thank MDOT and SHA for the opportunity to participate in the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Our SHA district has been particularly supportive of these and other sidewalk initiatives. The County supports SHA pedestrian safety improvements on Dual Highway (US40). Please consider sidewalks and pedestrians with state route improvements.

Aviation Program: The existing 50 foot air traffic control tower at Hagerstown Regional Airport has been in operation since 1972; MDOT's support for a potential private-public partnership to fund a new tower is essential. The County will also benefit from MDOT support for property acquisition to expand the airport footprint and expand economic opportunities. The County seeks continued funding assistance for airport marketing in accordance with the Hagerstown Regional Airport Marketing Plan.

Transit Program: The public demand for transit service and route expansion continues. Additional operational funds would serve to expand transit in accordance with the Transit Development Plan. Service to Boonsboro and other towns in the County are a priority. Additional operational funding would support staffing the transit center station in downtown Hagerstown.

Railroad Crossings: As the home of the “Hub City”, the County maintains 37 rail crossings outside the City of Hagerstown alone. The County has worked closely with the SHA Railroad Crossing Manager on safety improvements and all County crossings have been brought to current standards. We look forward to success on additional safety improvements and select at grade crossings.

Washington County is excited to begin upon new opportunities for improvement with MDOT. The County would also like to thank you and your staff for the support of improvements already underway.

Sincerely,



Robert Slocum, PE
County Administrator

Enclosure

- c: Board of County Commissioners
Washington County Delegation Members
Senator Cardin
Senator Van Hollen
Representative Delaney
Tony Crawford, SHA District Engineer
Rodney Tissue, City Engineer
Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO Exec. Director
Sarah Sprecher, Asst. County Administrator
Scott Hobbs, Engineering Department Head