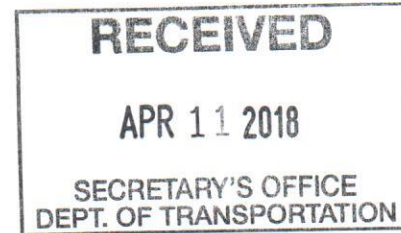




March 27, 2018

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



**RE: 2018 MDOT Tour Meeting
Board of County Commissioners Priorities**

Dear Secretary Rahn:

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, and staff look forward to your 2018 visit. Please consider these MDOT Transportation Priorities in the forthcoming six-year Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) budget for transportation projects.

Interstate 81 Widening: The Interstate 81 widening project remains a top priority as evidenced by the overwhelming support for the INFRA Grant application. The project was identified for planning and engineering funding for all phases of work but still falls short on State funding as the project has yet to include construction funding for Phases 3 and 4. The County was pleased to submit this project as part of the Chapter 30 Major Transportation Project Scoring System. 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.

Interstate 70 and Maryland 65 Interchange Improvements: The County has been informed by State Highway Administration (SHA) that the partial cloverleaf interchange concept has been selected and will move forward to the design phase. The project was identified for planning funding; however, no engineering or construction funding has been included in the CTP. The County was also pleased to submit this project as part of the Chapter 30 Major Transportation Project Scoring System. Over 80,000 vehicles cross this interchange daily, and traffic will grow substantially upon construction of the proposed developments. The interchange currently serves the Premium Outlets to the north while several others are beginning to build to the south. These interchange improvements are important to local businesses and the community.

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Sidewalks: Continue to fund Transportation Alternatives Programs (TAP) which includes the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. The County has successfully utilized SRTS funding and is currently working on a project. SHA District 6 was particularly supportive of these and other sidewalk initiatives. The County also supports SHA pedestrian safety improvements on Dual Highway (US40) and appreciates your support of these pedestrian safety-related projects.

Aviation Program: The County will be seeking funding to rehabilitate and add on to the terminal facility at the Hagerstown Regional Airport. These improvements will allow greater passenger capacity in our secure area and update many of our aged aesthetics and improve passenger flow through the terminal. We also appreciate support of the design and rehabilitation of our primary runway 9/27. This runway is now over 10 years old and will be refurbished. In addition, new LED lighting fixtures will be installed in the next couple of years. The County seeks continued funding assistance for our airport marketing plan and Virtual Perimeter Monitoring Security system (VPMS) at the airport. The VPMS is a phased project, and we will need funding for the next several years.

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 is a priority. Additional operational funding would support staffing the transit center station in downtown Hagerstown.

Railroad Crossings: The County maintains 37 rail crossings and has worked closely with the SHA Railroad Crossing Manager on several safety improvements over the last year. We look forward to this continued success on other safety improvements at highway-railroad grade crossings.

Highway User Revenue (HUR): The amount received this year is again substantially lower than in years past, and the County is in need of the additional funding to support the operations associated with maintaining over 850 miles of road in Washington County. Please provide your support in attempting to reestablish these funding levels.

We would like to thank you and your staff for the support of ongoing projects throughout Washington County and look forward to working collaboratively on more improvements this year.

Sincerely,



Scott Hobbs, P.E.
Director of Engineering

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Robert Slocum, County Administrator
James Hovis, Chief Operations Officer
Washington County Delegation Members
Senator Benjamin Cardin
Senator Christopher Van Hollen
Congressman John Delaney
Anthony Crawford, SHA District Engineer
Rodney Tissue, City Engineer
Matthew Mullenax, HEPMPO Executive Director

