



BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

August 6, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Rahn:

As Mayor of Baltimore City, I look forward to meeting with you and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) team at the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference to discuss projects beneficial to Baltimore City and Maryland as a whole. As you know, my predecessor sent a letter listing our Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP) priorities, and while my administration supports the projects outlined in the April 1, 2019 letter, I write to highlight the issues that are my main focus.

My top transportation priority is connecting people to jobs effectively and efficiently. According to the June 5, 2019 Baltimore Area Economic Summary by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Baltimore City has the highest unemployment rate in the region at 4.9%, while Baltimore County comes in at second at 3.5%. Despite our slightly higher than average unemployment rate, Baltimore City holds the highest rate of jobs per resident of any jurisdiction in the State of Maryland.

Consequently, Baltimore City's gateway corridors are experiencing increased congestion during the morning and evening as people travel to and from work. Transit options are experiencing delays caused by this congestion, as these same gateways are also the major corridors for the local and commuter bus systems. Providing opportunities for employment and economic advancements requires a reliable transportation system that serves the needs of all users. This is a prime example of why we must work in partnership to ensure that the Baltimore Metropolitan area has a robust transportation system, in furtherance of Governor Hogan's mantra that Maryland is open for business.

In closing, Baltimore City respectfully requests that the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) invest in advancing infrastructure and service provided beyond the state-of-good-repair into modernization and expansion of service for residents and commuters alike. As a partner, Baltimore City wants to work collaboratively with MTA in this endeavor. We look forward to meeting with you and your team in Ocean City at this summer's MACo conference.

Sincerely,

Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor
City of Baltimore

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