



CAROLINE COUNTY
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CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

LARRY C. PORTER, PRESIDENT
DANIEL J. FRANKLIN, VICE PRESIDENT
WILBUR LEVENGOOD, JR., COMMISSIONER
109 Market Street, Room 123
Denton, Maryland 21629

September 5, 2019

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

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SEP 11 2019

SECRETARY'S OFFICE
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

RE: Revised Caroline County CTP Priorities

Dear Secretary Rahn,

The County Commissioners of Caroline County wish to start this letter by thanking you, the Department, and Governor Hogan for the continued partnership demonstrated over the last year to address the County's transportation priorities and related safety concerns. Our priorities for the coming year are outlined below.

Priority A: Complete Safety Improvements at MD 404 and MD 328/River Road

State Highway Administration staff has made excellent progress in addressing safety improvements the Commissioners requested during last year's on-site visit and subsequent discussion during the CTP tour. The Commissioners request that SHA continue to work on the remaining items, many of which are already underway or in the planning stage:

- Reduce the size of the traffic islands to create turn lanes on MD 328;
- Install high visibility "red light ahead" signals on MD 404 in both directions;
- Change the timing of the light so that traffic on MD 328 goes one side at a time; and
- Reduce the speed limit on MD 328 between MD 404 and Business 404/Meeting House Road to 35 mph.

Priority B: Widen MD 404 to Four Lanes from Harmony Road to MD 16 East

The work done to dualize MD 404 has resulted in a reduction in accidents and congestion and greatly increased user satisfaction. We remain grateful for the previous investment in the project, and while we know it is a significant undertaking, the Commissioners request that the State begin the work on the final phase of the project to dualize MD 404 from Harmony Road to MD 16 East. Specifically, the County requests that SHA start preliminary planning and fund design and engineering, as well as any necessary property or right-of-way acquisition.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Priority C: Expansion of Gay Street, Denton

The Commissioners support the request of the Town of Denton to extend Gay Street from Legion Road to Route 404. This expansion would reduce congestion, as well as better facilitate highway access by emergency vehicles leaving the urgent care center in Denton Plaza. Additionally, this improvement would help spur additional commercial development that would have a significant positive impact on the county.

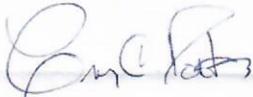
We understand the Town has expressed interest in making this a signalized intersection. The Commissioners support this request, provided that the necessary traffic study determines a signalized intersection is safe and that the State Highway Administration determines that such a signalized intersection would not be adversely disruptive to the Route 404 corridor and Denton bypass.

Priority D: Traffic Signal at Route 480 and Central Avenue, Ridgely

The Commissioners appreciate SHA completing the updated analysis we requested at our meeting last year to determine if this intersection meets warrants for a traffic light. We were disappointed the results showed it did not. The Commissioners wish to reiterate our belief that a traffic signal at this location is a necessary safety measure and request that SHA continue to work with the Town of Ridgely to analyze the potential for a traffic light in the future.

In closing, the Commissioners sincerely appreciate the investment the Hogan administration has made in the County's priority transportation projects, as well as our excellent working relationship with our SHA District Office. We thank you for your consideration of our local priorities and look forward to meeting with you and your team in October.

Sincerely,



Larry C. Porter, President
County Commissioners of Caroline County