



# CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

The Honorable Robert E. Bruchey, II

Mayor

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April 9, 2020

Honorable Gregory Slater, Secretary of Transportation  
Department of Transportation  
P. O. Box 548  
Harry R. Hughes Department of Transportation Building  
7201 Corporate Center Drive  
Hanover, MD 21076 - 0548

RE: Hagerstown Mayor & Council Transportation Priorities  
2020 MDOT Consolidated Transportation Plan

Dear Secretary Slater:

“Thank you” for being such a strong supporter of our community. As you prepare the Consolidated Transportation Plan, I am pleased to submit to you the Mayor & Council’s list of priority transportation items based on the discussion at our April 7, 2020 work session:

1. Eastern Boulevard Corridor Improvements – We support this Washington County led, multi-phase project to improve the Eastern Boulevard transportation corridor connecting US Route 40, Maryland Route 64, and Maryland Route 60. Specifically, we support the capacity-enhancing improvements to Maryland Route 64/Eastern Boulevard intersection that the State and County will commence in the near future. We also support the construction of Professional Boulevard and we anticipate financially supporting the construction of Phase II (shown in red on the attached map).
2. I-81 Widening – This corridor is crucial to the economy of our area and the frequent accidents on I-81 have both a physical and perceived negative impact on Hagerstown. We are grateful that SHA is widening I-81 from the Potomac River to approximately Route 11. We advocate for the widening of all 12 miles to the Pennsylvania line over the next 10 years.
3. Tourism Signs: In April of 2016, the Mayor and Council approved a State Highway plan to install new “Tourism” signs. These signs would replace the faded and outdated brown signs around the community and would direct motorists to downtown, City Park, Fairgrounds Park, Municipal Stadium, etc. We are grateful for the advanced schedule of installation in the summer of 2020 and request that this schedule not slip.
4. Highway User Revenues – This revenue is essential for us to maintain the street network throughout the City. We are very grateful for our FY20 allotment of \$1,724,000 and are very thankful for everyone who restored this funding to that level. With the pandemic, we are very concerned that this crucial funding will decrease and we ask for your assistance in any way possible.



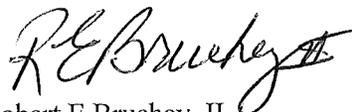
5. We strongly support and ask for continued funding from the “alternative” transportation funding programs including:
- Safe Routes to School Program: We also appreciate that we have benefitted from eight grants that we were fortunate enough to obtain through this program and they have significantly improved accessibility around our many educational institutions;
  - Bikeways Grants: Following our *2016 Bicycle Master Plan*, we obtained grants that allow us to continue to improve our award-winning bicycle infrastructure;
  - Transportation Alternatives Program: We recently received a \$200,000 grant for the final design of the Marsh Run Trail. This trail will become a key element in the City’s expanding bicycle and pedestrian network. Upon completion, the trail will provide a continuous bicycle and pedestrian corridor along the southern edge of the City’s urban core, and will connect with the Hagerstown Cultural Trail (that connects City Park and our downtown City Center). Please see attached map.
6. Park Circle Railroad Crossing Upgrades: Our engineering staff continues to work with your rail coordinators in the Office of Traffic and Safety. These three crossings (Virginia Avenue, Walnut Street and Summit Avenue) are badly in need of repair and SHA has agreed to fund these improvements. We request that the schedule not slip to complete this work.

On behalf of the Mayor & Council, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your consideration of our priorities and for the work that MDOT is already doing to improve transportation in our community.

If you have any questions or need additional information before the tour meeting date, please do not hesitate to contact our City Engineer, Mr. Rodney Tissue at 301-739-8577 extension 128, or [rtissue@hagerstownmd.org](mailto:rtissue@hagerstownmd.org)

Sincerely,

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN



Robert E Bruchey, II  
Mayor

Attachments: \* Professional Boulevard plan  
\* Marsh Run Trail map

c: Washington County Delegation members  
City Council  
Scott Nicewarner, City Administrator  
Rodney Tissue, City Engineer  
Kathy Maher, Planning Director  
Anthony Crawford, District Engineer, MDSHA District 6  
Kirk Downey, Interim Washington County Administrator  
Scott Hobbs, Washington County Director of Engineering  
Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO  
Dan Spedden, CVB