

MD 5 GREAT MILLS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

LETTERS OF SUPPORT





APPENDIX C – LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letter of Support Contents

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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns with the primary selection criteria of providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040, producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

St. Mary's County, where the project is located, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. In April 2019, *Forbes* reported that "California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area, and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty service members, civilians, and contractors, many of whom rely on MD 5 in the event of a state or national emergency or for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA,

1

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor

Cc: Secretary Pete K. Rahn, Maryland Department of Transportation

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We are pleased to support the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

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St. Mary's County has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country." The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area, and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors, many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around Washington, D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

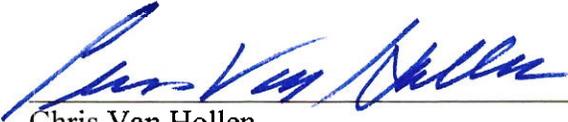
We urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong

partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

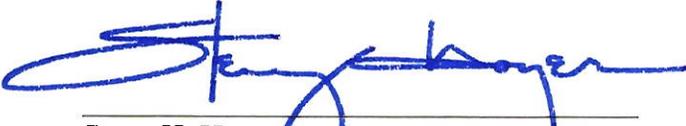
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
United States Representative

June 11, 2019

Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

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Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country" (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>). The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles East of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located eleven miles South of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors, many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around Washington DC and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

Secretary Elaine Chao
Page Two

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, State, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Heather Murphy, MDOT Office of Planning and Capital Programming (OPCP) Director, at 410-865-1275, toll free at 888-713-1414, or by email at hmurphy@mdot.maryland.gov. Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Pete K. Rahn
Secretary

cc: Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, OPCP, MDOT



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

June 28, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write today in full support of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The stretch of MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 is plagued with heavy traffic volume during peak travel times and reports a significantly higher crash rate than the statewide average for similar routes. Planned developments projects near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040, increasing traffic and safety concerns of the community. The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471, helping to eliminate congestion and ease traffic and pedestrian flow through the area.

St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, California-Lexington Park has the highest number of STEM jobs in the nation. This high concentration in the region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors, many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a state or national emergency.

We respectfully encourage you to favorably consider the grant application for the *Great Mills Improvement Project* and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The grant request has strong support among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland. Thank you for your attention to this project. The St. Mary's County Delegation looks forward to working with you to make this project a success.

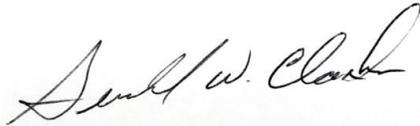
Sincerely,



Senator Jack Bailey



Delegate Matt Morgan
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation



Delegate Gerald "Jerry" Clark



Delegate Brian M. Crosby



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the representative of Southern St. Mary's County, District 29B, in the Maryland House of Delegates, I support the MD 5/Great Mills BUILD Grant application. This intersection needs a significant upgrade to support the local economy, improve quality of life, and facilitate emergency evacuation procedures in the region.

The primary economic growth of Patuxent River Naval Air Station (PAX) and Webster Field at St. Inigoes, which now employ over 22,200 civilians, contractors, and active-duty personnel, led to a substantial increase in the secondary economies in the area: retail, food service, and other recreational business endeavors. At \$88,500/year, St. Mary's County has the 14th highest median household income in the United States, and the 4th highest in Maryland. It has one of the youngest populations in the state with a median age of 36, and also has one of the highest percentages of veterans (12%). In the past decade, St. Mary's County's labor force grew by 18.9%, and according to Maryland's Department of Planning, the County's population will grow to 119,340 by 2030. St. Mary's County's overall population grew 22 percent between 2000 and 2010 – the fastest growth rate in the state. Further investment in local infrastructure is urgently required to protect our economic engine from future rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and continue to efficiently and effectively facilitate future growth.

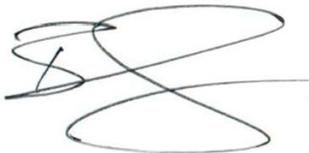
Currently, the bottleneck at MD 5 and MD 246 diminishes quality of life for commuters. During peak travel hours, multiple mile-long queues frequently form – dramatically increasing travel times and leading to significant safety concerns. According to the Maryland State Highway Administration, the crash rate at MD 5 and MD 246 is much higher than the statewide average for similar routes, and new development plans in the immediate area are expected to increase traffic volume by 26% – greatly exacerbating current conditions and leading to failing levels of service by 2040. My own 16-mile commute to Webster Field from Great Mills takes upwards of 45 minutes to an hour each way on an average work day; during non-peak travel hours, the same route would take just over 20 minutes.

Furthermore, St. Mary's County has 536 miles of coastline and this proximity to water makes us prone to flooding. Given rising sea levels and strengthening storms, occurrences of floods have increased in recent history. In the event of a strong hurricane, such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012, certain areas within my district would need to be evacuated. Additionally, Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant is 17 miles north of the district; in the event of an adverse nuclear event, the entire region will need to evacuate. In these potential state or national emergency scenarios, this intersection would act as a considerable exit barrier for approximately 42,000 individuals who would utilize the MD 5 evacuation route. If the intersection already struggles to handle daily commuting patterns, it also clearly cannot effectively serve its role as an emergency evacuation route.

More than any issue, constituents' top concern is alleviating traffic along MD 5. It was one of two defining issues during the last election cycle, and is consistently a topic of extended discussion during my Town Halls. I sit through it – along with several thousand of my fellow St. Mary's County residents and workers – every morning and afternoon. St. Mary's County is an excellent alternative to living in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area for many residents and employers. It combines the lower cost of business and attractive outdoor recreational opportunities of a rural area with the access to highly-educated/skilled employment and plentiful social amenities of urban areas. However, our current infrastructure is neither capable of handling the growth we have experienced, nor the growth we will continue to experience, so the congestion will only worsen. This will further complicate transportation logistics for our residents, labor force, and tourists, restrict intra- and inter-county commerce, impair our ability to appropriately evacuate in the case of emergencies, and significantly detract from the otherwise immense potential of St. Mary's County as a place to live, work, and play.

This intersection is the most needed transportation investment in St. Mary's County as it is a vital link between major U.S. military installations, private sector employment centers, and residential developments in the Great Mills/Lexington Park/California region. Specifically, it will provide safety and operational solutions in a critical commuter corridor along MD 5 (Point Lookout Road) between MD 246 (Great Mills Road) and MD 471 (Indian Bridge Road) by widening MD 5, replacing an existing bridge over the St. Mary's River, and improving the intersections of MD 5 at MD 246 and MD 471.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Crosby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Delegate Brian Crosby
District 29B, St. Mary's County

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY



Commissioners of St. Mary's County

James Randy Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

June 21, 2019

The Honorable Peter K. Rahn
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548, Mail Stop 200
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project (MD 5, MD246, MD 471 Intersection Complex)

Dear Secretary Rahn:

Summary. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County are pleased to offer their full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project. That improvement focuses on freeing a critical intersection complex in this County comprised of three MDOT/SHA roadways from the unnecessary congestion caused by missing dedicated turn lanes and a deteriorated, narrow bridge. St. Mary's County is a rural county with two large U. S. Navy installations; multiple small businesses producing products supporting Navy and civilian work; major agricultural, aquaculture production; and a growing tourist destination - all straining the roadway network.

With no rail or interstate highways, this county depends on those state-maintained arterials to tie the county together, to get product to market and to support everyday life. This intersection complex of three SHA maintained roads is a critical node in that arterial network. As a result, by accomplishing that project and freeing the intersection allows the roadways to operate at their true capacity, SHA will deliver on the primary BUILD selection criteria by providing significant improvements to safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

Detail. Through strategic widening, the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project will separate through and turn lanes, provide bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge on MD 5 over the St. Mary's River between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing continuing failing levels of service along MD 5.

St. Mary's County is proud to have the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. That growth has been recently documented in the April 2019 issue of Forbes article stating that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of those several military installations in Southern Maryland and University of Maryland research facilities. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project, all tied together by this intersection complex. These installations alone employ 22,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

Economic development along the Great Mills and MD 5 corridors is constrained by traffic tailbacks at the subject intersection complex. Companies located in St. Mary's County are growing and looking for industrial land. Meanwhile, due to the growing economy, companies outside of the County want to be here. Despite the area having coveted industrially zoned land, these potential new businesses turn away from the Great Mills project area, because a) they are concerned about their employees' quality of life, and b) the land is difficult to develop due to road and traffic configurations. By removing the capacity constraint at the intersection with the project, the roadways could operate at full capacity and land zoned industrial could be developed more fully.

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County offer their full support behind this critical project and investment in MDOT's capital program to advance this regionally significant rural project. We are happy that MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, and the citizens of St. Mary's County are in accord on the vital importance of this project to increase safety, further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,



James Randy Guy
Commissioner President

Cc: Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner
Rebecca Bolton Bridgett, Ed.D. County Administrator
John Deatrick, Director, DPW&T

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>



Commissioners of Leonardtown

22670 Washington Street
P. O. Box 1, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

301-475-9791 • FAX 301-475-5350
leonardtown.somd.com

DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. MCKAY
Town Administrator

June 19, 2019

Secretary Peter K. Rahn
Maryland Dept. of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Mr. Rahn:

The Commissioners of Leonardtown are pleased to support the proposed improvements on MD Route 5 at MD Route 246 in Great Mills. This project is extremely important to Leonardtown as well as the rest of St. Mary's County. Naval Air Station Patuxent River remains the largest employer in St. Mary's County by far. Access to the base for the employees is imperative. The growth Leonardtown is experiencing is tied very closely to the facility and as such accessibility is critical to our economy as well as quality of life for our residents.

We greatly appreciate the improvements currently underway on Rt. 5 through Leonardtown and support the needed improvements in Great Mills as well. Thank you for your consideration in moving this project forward.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Burris
Mayor

THE **St. Mary's**
County
Chamber
OF COMMERCE

"Where business and community meet"

June 19, 2019

St. Mary's County Government
Chesapeake Building
P.O. Box 653
41770 Baldrige Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dear Commissioners of St. Mary's County:

The board of the Chamber strongly supports your efforts to address the crippling traffic problems at the Great Mills and Maryland Route 5 intersection. We believe redesigning this intersection will greatly improve traffic flow, particularly in the southern portion of the county.

As is evident at morning and evening rush hour, the intersection at Great Mills and MD Route 5 is overwhelmed by thousands of vehicles. The two sets of traffic lights create a bottle neck that can cause travel delays of 30 to 90 minutes. This is hardly conducive to supporting and expanding our economic development efforts. The traffic buildup seriously impacts our members on Route 5 and Great Mills Road.

Therefore, we are deeply grateful for your leadership in seeking a solution that benefits the entire county. Improving the travel conditions in this one area will greatly enhance the flow of traffic and support our local businesses affected by the traffic congestion.

On behalf of the Board members of the Chamber thank you for your efforts on behalf of the professionals and businesses in St. Mary's County.

Sincerely,

Richard Fleming

Richard Fleming
President/CEO

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

A MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY AT
MARYLAND'S FIRST CAPITAL

June 14, 2019

Maryland State Delegate Brian M. Crosby
216 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Crosby,

I am writing on behalf of the Historic St. Mary's City Commission to express our support for addressing traffic problems in St. Mary's County specifically at the Great Mills and Maryland Route 5 intersection. We join together with our County and State elected officials as they lead this bipartisan effort.

The intersection at Great Mills and MD Route 5 was not designed to allow for managing thousands of vehicles every day. The line of cars waiting to pass through the intersection lights frequently backs up from one half to almost a mile during the morning and afternoon commute. The travel delays are an impediment to visitors coming into or leaving St. Mary's City. The delays also effect our staff every day as they commute to and from work. Sitting in traffic can easily add 30 to 90 minutes to their journey.

Improving the travel conditions in this one area could save thousands of people many hundreds of hours every year and enhance the visitors experience to the museum and South County.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the people and businesses of St Mary's County.

Sincerely,



Regina Faden, Ph.D.
Executive Director

P.O. BOX 39, ST. MARY'S CITY, MARYLAND 20686



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

June 26, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express the Maryland Chamber of Commerce's support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland, a product of the high concentration of military installations in the region. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce and its 4,000 business members, spanning from Garrett to Worcester counties, thank you for your work and urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Christine Ross, C.C.E., M.B.A., M.S.
President & CEO
Maryland Chamber of Commerce

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-269-0642



CALVERT-ST. MARY'S
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Calvert County Government
Steven R. Weems, County Commissioner

Maryland Department of Transportation
Pete K. Rahn, Secretary of MDOT

St. Mary's County Government
Todd B. Morgan, County Commissioner

June 7, 2019

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: MD 5 GREAT MILLS BUILD APPLICATION

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter in support of the Maryland Department of Transportation-State Highway Administration (MDOT-SHA) Grant Application for MD 5 Great Mills project improvements. The Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO), is the planning agency responsible for transportation planning and coordination for the Lexington Park-California-Chesapeake Ranch Estates urbanized area in Southern Maryland.

C-SMMPO adopted plans include the Calvert-St Mary's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Moving Forward 2040, which is the guide for transportation developments in the C-SMMPO region over the next twenty-five (25) year period. The LRTP embraces regionally significant transportation improvement projects that are to be implemented in the designated metropolitan planning area developed in cooperation with MDOT according to federal guidelines.

The MD 5 Great Mills BUILD Application is the number one project in the illustrative portion of Moving Forward 2040. In the event that the MD 5 Great Mills Project is awarded BUILD funding, the C-SMMPO Council will include the project in the fiscally constrained portion of the long range plan, which is scheduled to be updated in 2020. The project would also be included in the region's transportation improvement program (TIP), which is also scheduled to be updated in 2020.

The proposed BUILD project is multi modal: it will improve traffic operations, provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity by widening MD 5 (Point Lookout Road) to an undivided four-lane close section roadway; replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River at the same grade as the existing bridge; improve the intersections of MD 5 at MD 246 with MD 471 and it will modify the Old Great Mills Road intersection with MD 5.

St. Mary's County has had a high volume of growth and development since the early 2000s. It has the second fastest development in industry and employment of any county in Maryland, due in large part to the Naval Air Station Patuxent River and its annex Webster Outlying Field.

Population and business growth have resulted in extreme congestion, especially during peak travel periods in the Great Mills project area. The need to improve traffic operations is imperative. Economic development along the Great Mills and MD 5 corridors is constrained by traffic gridlock at the subject intersection

complex. Companies located in St. Mary's County are growing and looking for industrial land. Others outside of the County consider the area in search of their business location.

By removing the capacity constraint at the intersection with the project, the roadways could operate at full capacity, facilitate traffic operations and land for industrial sites could be developed more fully. The project is inside of a state-designated Sustainable Community and near the County's only federally-designated Opportunity Zone. The proposed BUILD project is in the Lexington Park Development, an area designated for growth.

The project is a smart growth incentive, adjacent to the Great Mills built-up area and the Lexington Park Development District. The funding of the project will facilitate transportation choices, orderly growth and enhance the quality of life in the region.

It is the C-SMMPO's hope that this project will attract more investment by companies and developers. Readying the Great Mills project area for future growth and alleviating congestion felt throughout the County would greatly enhance economic development, heighten our goals of safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, and environmental sustainability in the C-SMMPO region, especially during peak travel periods.

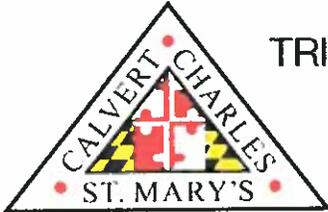
Your strong consideration of this application is much appreciated as it directly responds to our short and long-range transportation plans. On behalf of the C-SMMPO Council, we encourage a favorable decision for the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

Steven R. Weems, Chairman, C-SMMPO Council

The Calvert - St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex (including pregnancy) (except where age or sex are essential bona fide occupational requirements), sexual orientation, marital status, ancestry or national origin, religion, race, color, genetic information, actual or perceived disability, or gender-related identity or expression. Any reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities or linguistic barriers should be requested by contacting Margaret Oliver at the Calvert - St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization at 301-475-4200 ext. *1505.



TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL
for SOUTHERN MARYLAND

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND

P.O. BOX 745 HUGHESVILLE, MARYLAND 20637

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(301) 274-1922

(301) 870-2520

FAX (301) 274-1924

June 14, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is a rural regional planning and economic development organization serving the three counties South and East of Metropolitan Washington.

I am writing to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the **MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project**. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland Region.

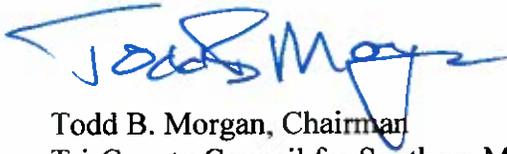
The **MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project** will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040, producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that " ... California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several strategic military installations in Southern Maryland. The Naval Air Station Patuxent River is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty military, civilians, and contractors, many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland as well as for an

evacuation route in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application reflects the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, and other federal, state, and local partners in this opportunity to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,



Todd B. Morgan, Chairman
Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

- Cc The Honorable Ben Cardin, United States Senator
 The Honorable Chris VanHollen, United States Senator
 The Honorable Steny Hoyer, United States Congressman
 The Honorable Randy Guy, President, St. Mary's County Commissioners

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#7413381c4d19>

SOUTHERN MARYLAND NAVY ALLIANCE

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

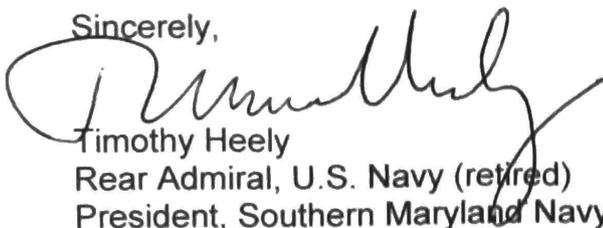
I am writing on behalf of the Southern Maryland Navy Alliance in support of the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*.

The Southern Maryland Navy Alliance is a private organization whose mission is to support, promote and enhance the intellectual capital and infrastructure at Patuxent River and St. Inigoes Naval facilities as economic resources of the Southern Maryland region. We are made up of companies and organizations with business directly (defense contractors, services providers, etc), and indirectly (real estate, hospital, banking, utilities, etc) with the government. This Improvement Project lines up exactly with our goals of sustaining and improving the quality of life in our region to keep current companies as well as to attract new business to increase the viability of Southern Maryland and the ensuing contribution to the State and National well-being.

By replacing the bridge and adding additional travel and bicycle lanes, *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will significantly increase safety, decrease congestion and add an environmentally friendly bicycle option to our people's transportation choices. It will also assist in evacuation in the case of a national or regional emergency.

I ask you to please favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project.

Sincerely,



Timothy Heely
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (retired)
President, Southern Maryland Navy Alliance

PO Box 748

Hollywood, MD 20636



June 21, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Patuxent Partnership, with over 290 member companies and nearly 6,000 network associates, fully supports the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, and economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes.

The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are nearby and the nearly 18,000 active-duty, civilian and contractors rely on MD 5 for access everyday. It also is a critical route to safety in the event of a State or national emergency.

The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland. I urge you to approve this critically needed project.

Sincerely,

Bonnie M. Green
Executive Director
The Patuxent Partnership

June 20, 2019

The United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Maryland Route 5 and Great Mills Road Intersection Project

Located in St. Mary's County, the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM), Maryland's oldest Regional Higher Education Center, currently hosts educational programs sponsored by nine universities, including five University System of Maryland (USM) institutions. We provide high demand undergraduate and graduate educational programs that meet the workforce needs of the Tri-County Region of Maryland comprising Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary's County. The majority of our students work at the Naval Air Station at Patuxent River (NAVAIR) to enhance their educational goals and to enable NAVAIR meet its mission. Other students work in the area but commute from outside the region including the Metro DC area.

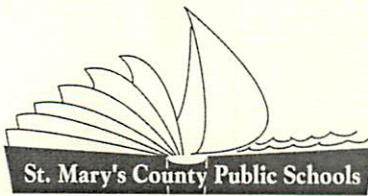
On behalf of the students, staff, and our University Partners, I write to you with an urgent request. As you know, the purpose of the MD Route 5 and Great Mills Road Improvement Project is to develop a transportation solution along MD Route 5, between MD Route 246 and MD Route 471 that improves existing traffic operations, design deficiencies, and safety. The bottleneck at this intersection is the number 1 traffic problem in St. Mary's County during peak traffic.

On behalf of USMSM, I write in support of St. Mary's County application seeking federal funding for this project. I also respectfully request that you approve the funds as requested by St. Mary's County.

Sincerely,



Ben O. Latigo, PhD
Chief Academic Officer and Interim Executive Director
University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland



June 27, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. Our students, staff, and families travel these roads daily and are affected by the increased traffic. This traffic causes both frustration, but also a safety hazard due to the unpredictable nature of the congestion on this section of MD 5.

St. Mary's County Public Schools has several schools that are impacted by the daily commuting patterns, traffic and congestion of the MD 5/Great Mills Road intersection. This includes G. W. Carver Elementary School, Park Hall Elementary School, Chesapeake Public Charter School, Fairlead Academy, and Great Mills High School (which also has hundreds of student drivers who feed into this same traffic pattern). The current road configuration experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Our priority is to ensure the safety of our students and staff in school as well as in their travels to and from school. The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will provide a safer route through this intersection and its feeder roadways.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

June 12, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to offer our full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region. Many of our 550+ faculty, staff, and contractual employees and our 1,450 students use this road daily and are often subjected to traffic delays and safety concerns.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

We strongly urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Historic St. Mary's City Commission, along with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Wick
Provost and Dean of Faculty



Paul A. Pusecker III
Vice President, Business and Finance

June 19, 2019

St. Mary's County Government
Chesapeake Building
P.O. Box 653
41770 Baldrige Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dear Commissioners of St. Mary's County:

The Board of Directors of the County's official tourism and destination development organization, Visit St. Mary's MD, Inc. (Visit St. Mary's MD) strongly supports your efforts to address the sometimes crippling traffic problems at the Great Mills and Maryland Route 5 intersection. We believe redesigning this intersection will greatly improve visitors' experience, particularly to the southern portion of the County.

As is evident at morning and evening rush hour, the intersection at Great Mills and MD Route 5 is overwhelmed by thousands of vehicles. The two sets of traffic lights create a bottle neck that can cause travel delays of 30 to 90 minutes. Visitors come to St. Mary's County to have a relaxing vacation in the country. Instead, at certain times of day they experience unexpected and unwelcome traffic. This is hardly conducive to building our tourism industry.

Therefore, we are deeply grateful for your leadership in seeking a solution that benefits the entire County. Improving the travel conditions in this one area will greatly enhance the visitors experience and help make St. Mary's County a destination of choice.

On behalf of the Board members of Visit St. Mary's MD, thank you for your work on behalf of the professionals and businesses of the tourism industry in St. Mary's County.

Sincerely,



Regina Faden, Chair

Board of Directors:
Kim Aus
Nancy Easterling
Rich Fleming
Jim Grube
Chris Kaselemis
Phil Langley



June 28, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

I can personally attest to the matters set forth in the paragraph above the corporate offices of the Cherry Cove Group, of which entity I am the CEO, are located along Maryland Route 246, and I and the other corporate employees of Cherry Cove experience the unprecedented traffic congestion along this corridor on a daily basis. Every afternoon starting at 3:30, it is not uncommon for it to take more than 20 minutes to travel from our offices to Maryland Route 5, a distance of approximately 0.7 miles. Further, The Cherry Cove Group is the owner and developer of several existing, newly constructed and proposed commercial projects also located along Maryland Route 246 and as such, Cherry Cove stands in a position of particular interest in the safety, good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits specifically along the Maryland Route 246/Maryland Route 5 intersection.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>

STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

I would be happy to meet with you at a time and place convenient for you, to further discuss the merits of this project.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Norris
President and CEO



44150 Smartronix Way
Hollywood, MD 20636

301-373-6000
Fax 301-373-7171
www.smartronix.com

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Parris".

Alan Parris, Executive Vice President and Co-Founder/Co-Owner
Smartronix, Inc.

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>



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July 8, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."

¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank E. Taylor".

Frank E. Taylor
President

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>



July 8, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project aligns strongly with the primary selection criteria providing significant safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life benefits to the Southern Maryland region.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi C. Stanalonis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi C. Stanalonis

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/04/17/the-u-s-cities-with-the-most-stem-jobs-infographic/#69bd51724d19>



Public and Government Affairs

8600 La Salle Road, Suite 639
Oxford Building
Towson, MD 21286
(410) 616-1900

July 11, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to offer AAA Mid-Atlantic's support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*.

The *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project* will add two outside travel lanes, bicycle lanes and sidewalks, as well as replace the bridge over the St. Mary's River, between MD 246 and MD 471. Currently, MD 5 between MD 246 and MD 471 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. New commercial and residential developments planned near the community of Great Mills are expected to generate 26 percent higher traffic volumes by 2040 producing failing levels of service along MD 5.

Additionally, the county in which the project is located, St. Mary's County, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland, which will contribute to traffic congestion in the region. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "... California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country." The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of several military installations in Southern Maryland. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is three miles east of the project area and Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles to the south of the project. These installations alone employ 18,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors many of whom rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around D.C. and Maryland and in the event of a State or national emergency.

I urge you to favorably consider this important project and invest in MDOT's efforts to advance this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, with other federal, state, and local partners to increase traffic safety and reduce congestion in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Ragina C. Ali
Public and Government Affairs Manager
AAA Mid-Atlantic, Maryland



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR STATION
22268 CEDAR POINT ROAD
PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670-1154

July 12, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River fully supports the efforts for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project. The project site is adjacent to NAS Patuxent River, which employs over 21,000 personnel who commute daily through this route. NAS Patuxent River is the premier Research Development, Testing and Acquisition base for all Navy and Marine Corps Aircraft.

The MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project will drastically speed the flow of traffic on this critical transportation corridor. Route 5 is part of Maryland's technology corridor and the only state road leading directly to Webster Outlying Landing Field, the home of our unmanned aerial systems test activities. For the past several years, NAS Patuxent River has been working closely with various stakeholders, including MDOT, on a Regional Transportation Program aimed at improving the transportation network to alleviate the traffic situation, which is a large portion of Urban Encroachment, a top encroachment issue for the base.

The MD5 Great Mills Improvement Project complements planned NAS Patuxent River efforts to reduce and alleviate traffic congestion at and associated with both NAS Patuxent River and OLF Webster Field. One of those efforts is a project that would reconstruct NAS Patuxent River's Gate 2, which is at the other end of Great Mills Road from the MD5 project, in order to improve traffic flow at the MD 235 intersection and improve security measures. We are also taking action to increase carpool, vanpool, public transportation and bicycle use in order to reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles that travel to the base every day.

I value your advocacy and fully support your pursuit of this BUILD grant for such an important and regionally significant rural project. Improving the MD5 Great Mills intersection is very much in the interest of all assigned Military Members and MD residents whose work is on or on behalf of the base. The BUILD application reflects the strong partnership among MDOT, SHA, St. Mary's County, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, and other federal, state, and local partners that strive to increase safety, economic opportunity, and quality of life for the thousands of Military and Civilian personnel who live and work at NAS Patuxent River; and who are building and sustaining the technologically superior Aircraft and Air Combat Systems that will enable victory over a near peer adversary one day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. A. Cox", is written over the typed name.

C. A. COX
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer