

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

The Honorable Robert E. Bruchey, II

Mayor

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April 3, 2019

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SECRETARY'S OFFICE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable Pete Rahn Maryland Secretary of Transportation P O. Box 548 7201 Corporate Center Drive Hanover, MD 21076 - 0548

RE: HAGERSTOWN MAYOR & COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

2019 MDOT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Dear Secretary Rahn:

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 2, 2019 Work Session:

- 1. <u>Eastern Boulevard Corridor Improvements</u>: 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. <u>I-81 Widening</u>: 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 <u>all</u> 12 miles to the Pennsylvania line over the next 10 years.
- 3. <u>US Route 40 (Dual Highway) Pedestrian Issues</u>: Our Engineering, Planning, and Police staff have all endorsed the "Pedestrian Safety Study and Audit" for US 40 between Cannon Avenue and Redwood Circle as prepared by the HEPMPO in 2015. We are aware of Phase I construction starting in calendar year 2019 and are very appreciative of this initiative. The HEPMO study provides specific ways to make the Dual Highway more compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide safer, alternative modes of travel for our population, especially those without motor vehicles.
- 4. <u>Tourist Signs</u>: 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 These signs would replace the faded and outdated brown signs around the community and would direct motorists to downtown, City Park, Fairgrounds Park, Municipal Stadium, etc.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 spring of 2020 and request that this schedule not slip.











- 5. <u>Highway User Revenues</u>: This revenue is <u>essential</u> 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.
- 6. We strongly support and ask for continued funding from the "alternative" transportation funding programs including:
 - <u>Bikeways Grants</u>: 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;
 - <u>Retrofit Sidewalk Installation</u>: We appreciate the sidewalk that was constructed in our community by the program, most recently on Burhans Boulevard. Other future uses of these funds would be the Dual Highway (see #4 above), Virginia Avenue, Route 65 near South High, and Route 40 in the extreme west end of the City;
 - <u>Safe Routes to School Program</u>: We also appreciate that we have benefitted from seven grants that we were fortunate enough to obtain through this program and they have significantly improved accessibility around our many educational institutions.

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, Ext. 128, or rtissue@hagerstownmd.org.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN

Robert E Bruchey, II Mayor

Attachments: Recent history of HUR, Professional Boulevard plan, Marsh Run Trail map

c: Washington County Delegation members
Hagerstown City Council
Michael Spiker, Interim City Administrator
Rodney Tissue, City Engineer
Kathy Maher, Director of Planning & Code Administration
Anthony Crawford, District Engineer, MDSHA District 6
Rob Slocum, Washington County Administrator
Scott Hobbs, Washington County Director of Engineering
Matt Mullenax, HEPMPO
Dan Spedden, President, Convention & Visitors Bureau

City of Hagerstown State Shared Taxes: State Highway User Revenue Detail as of March 25, 2019

Over FY09	-89% -92% -75% -84% -83% -82% -83%	-82%	%6-
a)	-89% -26% 191% -36% 5% 5% -2% 1%	1%	412%
Yearly Change	3 7 1 5 3 0 9 5 0 5	0	9
Annual Allocation	1,899,839.05 217,621.80 161,387.12 469,325.59 301,934.70 316,997.68 333,022.82 339,741.71 332,358.67	336,423.00	1,723,700.96
One-Time Allotments	722,881.83 748,955.36 884,465.39 873,766.19 916,032.11	1,027,992.41	
Over FY09	-89% -92% -75% -84% -43% -36% -37%	-28%	%6-
Yearly Change O	-89% -26% 191% -36% 244% 4% 13% -1%	%6	798
Total	1,899,839.05 217,621.80 161,387.12 469,325.59 301,934.70 1,039,879.51 1,081,978.18 1,224,207.10 1,206,124.86 1,250,240.94	1,364,415.41	1,723,700.96
	FY09 Actual FY10 Actual FY11 Actual FY12 Actual FY14 Actual FY15 Actual - includes one-time allotment FY15 Actual - includes one-time allotment FY16 Actual - includes one-time allotment FY17 Actual - includes one-time allotment FY17 Actual - includes one-time allotment	Estimated FY19 based on 9/11/18 memo FY19 Projected Annual allotment - includes one-time	Preliminary Estimated FY20 budget based on 1/17/19 memo FY20 Preliminary Budget

