



COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

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May 8, 2020

Heather Murphy, Director
Office of Planning and Capital Programming
Maryland Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, MD 21076

RE: Talbot County – 2020 Priority Listing

Dear Ms. Murphy:

The Talbot County Council endorsed the attached list of priority projects for Talbot County at our meeting on April 28, 2020. Please note that this year's listing includes information not only on roads infrastructure, but Easton Airport safety improvements as well.

The Council looks forward to meeting with you and representatives from the Maryland Department of Transportation this fall for the annual Consolidated Transportation Plan meeting. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please contact Ray Clarke, County Engineer, at (410) 770-8170 or Micah Risher, Airport Manager, at (410) 770-8055.

Sincerely,
COUNTY COUNCIL OF TALBOT COUNTY

Corey W. Pack
President

CWP/jkm
Attachment

Cc: Ian Beam – Rural Area Regional Planner, MDOT
The Honorable Adelaide Eckardt
The Honorable Christopher Adams
The Honorable John Mautz
Ray Clarke, County Engineer
Micah Risher, Easton Airport Manager

**TALBOT COUNTY PROJECT PRIORITY LISTING
FOR THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
2020**

PRIORITY RANKING	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1	<p><u>MD Route 33 Capacity and Evacuation Improvements</u> During weather-related emergencies such as Tropical Storm Isabel and Hurricane Irene, this corridor experienced areas of significant flooding, limiting ingress and egress from this portion of the county. <i>The MD Route 33 corridor is the sole evacuation route for this populated neck or peninsula.</i> Accordingly, elevation modification to eliminate or minimize storm surge road flooding, as well as capacity improvements, should be pursued to protect the lives and safety of citizens in this area. Also, portions of this corridor between the Town of St. Michaels and the Town of Easton experience some weekday capacity issues which are anticipated to increase in the future. Traffic counts show that portions of MD Route 33 have heavy traffic volume, particularly near its intersection with MD Route 322. As an interim measure, the MD Route 33 corridor should be evaluated for any issues or problems that would need to be resolved in future improvements.</p>
2-A*	<p><u>US Route 50/MD Route 328 – Goldsborough Street Intersection Improvements</u> This intersection currently experiences significant traffic volumes for all approaches. The geometric configuration of this intersection possesses many shortcomings on Goldsborough Street, west of US Route 50. The State should work with the Town of Easton to improve the geometric configuration of this intersection approach and/or provide technical assistance to the Town for diversion of east – west traffic from this intersection.</p>
2-B*	<p><u>MD Route 50/MD Route 331 – Dover Street Intersection Improvements</u> This intersection currently experiences significant traffic volumes for all approaches. The geometric configuration of this intersection possesses many shortcomings on Dover Street, west of US Route 50. The State should work with the Town of Easton to improve the geometric configuration of this intersection approach and/or provide technical assistance to the Town for diversion of east – west traffic from this intersection.</p>
2-C*	<p><u>US Route 50/Chapel Road - Intersection Improvements</u> This intersection currently experiences significant traffic volumes for all approaches. The geometric configuration of this intersection possesses many shortcomings on Chapel Road, west of US Route 50. The State should work with the Town of Easton to improve the geometric configuration of this intersection approach and/or provide technical assistance to the Town for diversion of east – west traffic from this intersection.</p>
3	<p><u>US Route 50/MD Route 309/MD Route 662 Intersection Capacity Improvements</u> As a result of increasing traffic for the growing Easton Airport, Talbot County Community Center and the likely relocation of the Easton Memorial Hospital to Longwoods Road (MD Route 662), one of our top priorities would be the construction of an overpass that meets FAA requirements and serves these facilities. Moreover, MD Route 309 (Cordova Road) is a significant corridor for vehicular traffic from northern Caroline County (Denton, Ridgely, Greensboro, etc.) to Easton and points south along US Route 50. Left turns between MD Route 309 and US Route 50 commonly back up beyond the turn lanes provided. This turn lane shortcoming should be rectified as appropriate. West of this intersection, extending through the adjacent MD 662 intersection, has poor geometry/intersection spacing. For these reasons, capacity and safety improvements in this area would be beneficial.</p>
4	<p><u>MD Route 329 (Royal Oak Road) Safety Improvements</u> This roadway serves as the primary means of ingress and egress for the communities in and around the villages of Royal Oak and Bellevue, in addition to a significant tourism corridor for these communities and beyond. Paralleling MD Route 33, this roadway provides an alternative route for MD Route 33 (see priority number 1 above, evacuation corridor). The importance of this alternative route is compounded considering the aging status of the bridge carrying MD Route 33 over Oak Creek. <i>An overpass should be planned as a long term solution for Priority Rankings 2-A through 2-C.</i></p>

**Easton Airport
MDOT Funding Priority
April 21, 2020**

Easton Airport - Runway Safety Improvements

Easton Airport has completed an environmental assessment to improve the Runway Safety Area (RSA) of the primary Runway 4/22 and shift the runway 1,900 ft. southwest of the current location. This safety improvement will bring the runway into full compliance with FAA design standards. This is critical for the long term financial sustainability of the airport and economic benefits derived by the County. The airport is now moving into implementing the construction solution and will seek to complete phase 1 of 3 of the Obstruction Removal Program in FY2021.

Classified as a "National" general aviation airport by the FAA, Easton Airport supports the national and state system by providing communities with access to national and international markets in multiple states and throughout the country.

Talbot County is requesting MDOT - Maryland Aviation Administration maximize grant funding for Phase 1 Construction of Easton Airport's Obstruction Removal Program, with an estimated project total cost of \$550,000 in FY2021.

