



October 6, 2025

Maryland Department of Transportation
Acting Secretary Samantha Biddle
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

Dear Acting Secretary Biddle:

Thank you for your continued support of the City of Gaithersburg and the opportunity to share our priorities for the FY 2025-2030 Consolidated Transport Program (CTP).

Thank you for the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program funding for design costs associated with the I-270/NIST Shared Use Path. This project will provide a critical link in the City of Gaithersburg's shared use path network, with the proposed improvements to include pavement striping, roundabout signage, stormwater management, retaining wall and landscaping. Towards that end, we also appreciate MDOT's support totaling \$400K for Bicycle and Pedestrian Route Improvements from Industrial Drive Path to Morris Park in Gaithersburg.

We also wanted to share our appreciation for the following projects and funding:

- **Transit Oriented Development Grant Program:** Increased by \$5M and adds another year of grants. This program provides critical financial assistance to local jurisdictions and development partners to promote the equitable and inclusive development of transit-oriented development at State-designated TOD sites, which Gaithersburg may soon pursue for the area surrounding the Lakeforest Mall redevelopment site.
- **MARC Improvements on Camden and Brunswick Lines:** Project funding allocation increased by \$7.1M due to the new program year (FY 2031) and miscellaneous adjustments. This is appreciated, but the recommendations outlined in the June 2025 *MARC Growth and Transformation Plan* will require much more significant investments if we are to realize our vision to create a regional rail network with more frequent, bi-directional service to better serve existing and new regional employment centers and travel markets. We also value the investments in Positive Train Control (PTC) to safeguard against train collisions.
- **Montgomery County Local Bus Program:** We appreciate the project allocation increase by \$2.4M to fund annual bus replacements and preventive maintenance for Montgomery County's Ride On System.

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov • gaithersburgmd.gov

MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

- **MD355 Frederick Road - Safety and Resurfacing Improvements from Brookes Avenue to Montgomery Village Avenue:** The \$3,598,000 allocated for FY 2026 under the Minor Projects Program will support valuable investments in this congested commercial corridor.

In addition, the City of Gaithersburg is pleased to see that construction on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Round 1 sites is underway. NEVI will create a critical network of convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable electric vehicle chargers along Maryland's designated alternative fuel corridors and within communities. Furthermore, we are intrigued by and look forward to hearing more about the \$5 million budgeted, over 5 years, for the first ever Maryland Statewide Rail Grant Program. The grant program offers state grant assistance to local jurisdictions, railroads, businesses and commercial interests, and other key agencies to help preserve railroad corridors, support economic development, and foster sustainability and innovative technologies.

We would like to also share our concerns with the status or decreased funding for the following and respectfully request your reconsideration:

- **Highway User Revenue:** Funding decreased by \$16.4 million. Highway User Revenues are the primary State funding source for local roads and bridges, totaling \$2,781,550 for the City of Gaithersburg in FY '25. Local governments once received as much as 30–40% of highway user revenues, though that percentage collapsed during the Great Recession. While some of HUR has been restored over the past decade for municipalities, the current statute shrinks the local share from approximately 20% to 15.6% within the next few years. According to the Draft CTP, HUR for FY27 is estimated at \$459.2M, dropping to \$351.6M in FY28. resulting in nearly \$110 million in road funding being eliminated in two years. The City of Gaithersburg, like municipalities across Maryland, depend on HUR revenues to maintain local roads and bridges. A decrease of this magnitude will only further exacerbate the funding imbalance between local governments' responsibilities and resources.
- **PAGE SHA-M-6: PROJECT:** MD 117, Clopper Road/Diamond Avenue: We remain disappointed that this project remains “on hold” with no funding provided in the past five years. This project, which includes intersection capacity improvements, new sidewalks, and a shared use path has long been a priority project for both Montgomery County and the City of Gaithersburg. We recommend funding sufficiently to, at

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov • gaithersburgmd.gov

MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert Wu

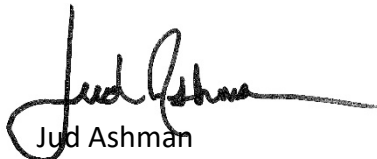
CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

minimum, complete intersection improvements within Phase 2 (if not complete road sections). With the opening of the Watkins Mill Interchange, traffic volumes returning to pre-pandemic levels, and continued employment and residential growth in the immediate area, it is important to advance this long-delayed project to address the corridor's growing safety and congestion issues.

- **PAGE SHA-SW-10: PROJECT:** I-270, Eisenhower Memorial Highway and I-495 Capital Beltway - Phase 1 South: We are pleased to see that preliminary engineering is underway for the project, efforts to secure grant funding for the project continue, as does an analysis of state of good repair needs and a timeline for the replacement of the American Legion Bridge. It is also gratifying to see that this project includes \$1M to support project development coordination activities with Montgomery County's Bus Rapid Transit corridors initiative. However, as the likelihood of securing project funds through the federal government appears to decline with each passing day, coupled with the deteriorating conditions of the roads and bridges within this corridor, the City of Gaithersburg is seriously concerned that this project will never be completed.
- **PAGE SHA-SW-11: PROJECT:** I-270, Eisenhower Memorial Highway and I-495 Capital Beltway - Phase 1 North: This study will consider a range of equitable and environmentally sensitive transportation solutions including transit and transportation demand management options for near-term, mid-term, and long-term implementation that address the transportation needs of the corridor. The project cost is listed at \$25 million, with \$22.5 of that from federal funds. I reiterate our concerns about dependence upon federal funding for this and all components of the I-270, Eisenhower Memorial Highway and I-495 Capital Beltway projects.

Thank you again for your time and for your continued support for the City of Gaithersburg. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at jud.ashman@gaithersburgmd.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Respectfully submitted,



Jud Ashman
Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov • gaithersburgmd.gov

MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley