



APPENDIX B

Letters of Support

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LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 9, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) four applications for Rebuilding American Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding. These important projects advance critical state and national economic development and infrastructure objectives. They will address multimodal needs in areas spread throughout the State from rural areas of Southern Maryland to the urban areas of Baltimore City.

The four projects include the following:

MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA), MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project: MDOT SHA is seeking a grant in fulfillment of an initiative to address critical safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life issues in the rural Southern Maryland region. Currently, MD 5 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. Additionally, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Naval Air Station Webster Field, and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are all located near the project area. These installations alone employ 21,500 active-duty, civilians, and contractors who all rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around Washington D.C. and Maryland in the event of a State or national emergency. This application will provide the funding to address critical needs and represents a strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Air Station, and other federal, state, and local partners.


MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), East-West Priority Corridor Project: MDOT MTA is seeking grant funding to improve transportation and economic opportunities for the Baltimore region by improving public transit connections between East and West Baltimore, connecting both residential communities and regional job centers. The East-West Priority Corridor is unique for the great number of employment centers it connects in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, including the University of Maryland Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview, the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the central business district of downtown Baltimore. The corridor also connects multiple residential communities, hosts two of the region's top five bus routes in terms of ridership, and provides a direct connection to the MARC regional commuter train that travels seven days a week to Washington, DC. The project's proposed improvements will facilitate faster and more reliable transit trips, strengthen multi-modal connections, and provide improvements to existing pedestrian safety issues. The project will provide near-term investments to better connect people to jobs, education, services, and leisure activities, while the region considers long-term options via the Regional Transit Plan.

MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA), *Seagirt Marine Terminal Berth 1 & 2 Modernization P3 Project*: MDOT MPA is seeking grant funding to add a third berth capable of serving 50-foot draft Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs) and the necessary supporting landside improvements. Baltimore's Seagirt Marine Terminal is currently undergoing improvements to Berth 3 which will allow two ULCVs to berth at once; however, the shipping industry is rapidly evolving due to COVID-19, current supply chain issues, and changes in consumer preferences. These changes have led to the industry's increase in vessel size. These trends are accelerating the frequency and number of large vessels calling ports on the US East Coast, including the Port of Baltimore. Without berth space for three ULCVs, the Port of Baltimore will be excluded from continued international trade growth. The Seagirt Marine Terminal Berth 1 & 2 Modernization P3 Project is a part of a \$500 million public-private partnership investment program to modernize, upgrade, and expand Seagirt. This project will leverage the Port's successful emission reduction program, in addition to significant rail network improvements with construction beginning on the Howard Street Tunnel expansion project later this year.

MDOT Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), *BWI Marshall Landside & Southwest Quadrant Planning Study*: MDOT MAA is seeking grant funding to adapt and modernize the airport infrastructure and surrounding state and county roadways to the changing public ground transportation needs as well as the commercial development patterns related to air cargo and surface delivery logistics. The project's objectives are to meet capacity, optimize passenger experience, enhance traffic safety, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the mix of personal, commercial, transportation network company (TNC), and transit vehicles.

I strongly support these grant applications and urge you to award the requested RAISE funds to these vital, transformative projects. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor

Cc: Secretary Greg Slater, Maryland Department of Transportation

June 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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.

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."

The high concentration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) jobs in this region is driven by the presence of The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems (NAS) Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. Pax River NAS 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 employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors. Many of these employees rely on MD 5 and traverse the Great Mills project area on a daily basis for access to work, school, day care, and other local destinations. For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
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 MDOT SHA is prepared to commit its required grant funding match. 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 or by email at hmurphy@mdot.state.md.us. Of course, you may always contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Slater', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gregory Slater
Secretary

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

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 9, 2021

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

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The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. Pax River NAS is three miles east of the project area; Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles south of the project. These installations employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors. Many of these employees rely on MD 5 and traverse the Great Mills project area on a daily basis for access to work, school, day care, and other local destinations. For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

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.

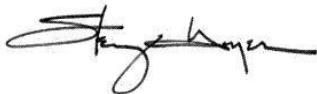
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



David Trone
Member of Congress

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 29
CALVERT AND ST. MARY'S COUNTIES

June 22, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The St. Mary's County Delegation offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns 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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I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,

Handwritten signature of Senator Jack Bailey in black ink.
Senator Jack BaileyHandwritten signature of Delegate Matt Morgan in blue ink.
Delegate Matt MorganHandwritten signature of Delegate Jerry Clark in black ink.
Delegate Jerry ClarkHandwritten signature of Delegate Brian Crosby in black ink.
Delegate Brian Crosby

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

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

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

June 15, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Maryland, offer our full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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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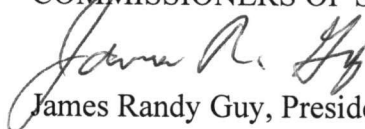
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Page 2
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
June 15, 2021

County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

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

Respectfully,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/JD/sf
T:/Consent/2021/126

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
David Weiskopf County Attorney
John Deatrick, Director, Dept of Public Works and Transportation



CALVERT-ST. MARY'S METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Calvert County Government
Steven R. Weems, County Commissioner

Maryland Department of Transportation
Gregory I Slater, Secretary of MDOT

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

June 21, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-SMMPO) offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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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For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

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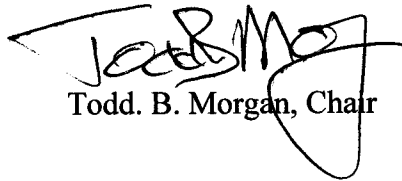
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

June 21, 2021

I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,

The Calvert-St. Mary's Metropolitan Planning Organization

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd B. Morgan". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Todd. B. Morgan, Chair



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Earl F. Hance, President
Steven R. Weems, Vice President
Mike Hart
Thomas E. Hutchins
Kelly D. McConkey

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) 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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We urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Pax River NAS, and other federal, state, and local partners to increase safety and further expand economic opportunity in rural Southern Maryland.

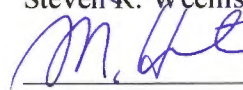
Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners,
Calvert County



Earl F. Hance



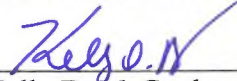
Steven R. Weems



Mike Hart



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

June 28, 2021

Gregory I. Slater,
Secretary of Transportation
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Dr
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Secretary Slater:

Naval Air Station Patuxent River (NAS) fully supports the efforts for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. The project site is adjacent to NAS Patuxent River, which employs over 25,000 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 increase the flow through of traffic through this critical transportation corridor. MD 5 is part of Maryland's technology corridor and the only state road leading directly to Webster Outlying Landing Field (OLF), 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, a top encroachment issue for the base.

The MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project complements planned NAS Patuxent River efforts to reduce and alleviate traffic at NAS Patuxent River and associated Webster OLF. One of those efforts is a project that would reconstruct NAS Patuxent River's Gate 2, located at the other end of Great Mills Road from the MD 5 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 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 the RAISE grant for such an important and regionally significant rural project. The RAISE application reflects the strong partnership among MDOT, SHA, St. Mary's County, NAS Patuxent River, federal, state, and local partners to increase safety, economic opportunity and quality of life for thousands of military and civilian personnel who live and work at NAS Patuxent River.

Fly Navy,

J. J. Brabazon
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer



June 23, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns 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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We urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,

Maryland Chamber of Commerce





The Patuxent Partnership
22335 Exploration Drive, Suite 1035
Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-866-1739

www.paxpartnership.org

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Linda Vassallo
Dr. Michael Wick

Leslie Taylor
Navy / DoD Liaison

Bonnie Marie Green
Executive Director

May 24, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Patuxent Partnership strongly supports the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project closely aligns 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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TPP Benefactors

ASEC | Bell | Boeing | General Dynamics Information Technology | HTii | KBR | Northrop Grumman
PAE | NSI | Raytheon Technologies | Peerless | SAIC | SURVICE Engineering Company

Improvement Project's improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,



Bonnie M. Green
Executive Director

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



June 10, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Cherry Cove Group, whose corporate offices and primary hotel and commercial office space operations are located in and immediately surrounding the MD Route 246 corridor, offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns 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 peak travel periods, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes.

Additionally, St. Mary's County, where the project is located, 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 The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. Pax River NAS is three miles east of the project area; Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles south of the project. These installations employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors.

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Many of these employees rely on MD 5 and traverse the Great Mills project area on a daily basis for access to work, school, day care, and other local destinations. For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,

Brian K. Norris
President / CEO



Parraid, LLC
44150 Smartronix Way, Suite 100
Hollywood, MD 20636

PH: 301-690-0690
FAX: 301-690-0095

June 8, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Parraid, LLC offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns 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 peak travel periods, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes.

Additionally, St. Mary's County, where the project is located, 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 The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. Pax River NAS is three miles east of the project area; Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigo are located 11 miles south of the project. These installations employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors. Many of these employees rely on MD 5 and traverse the Great Mills project area on a daily basis for access to work, school, day care, and other local destinations. For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alan R. Parris'.

Alan R. Parris
Co-Founder/Managing Partner
Parraid, LLC

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



June 8, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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 the year 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." 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,

Misty Kendall



June 23, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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 will generate 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 traffic safety and reduce congestion in rural Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Ragina C. Ali

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

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



Visit St. Mary's MD, INC.
23115 Leonard Hall Drive
Potomac Building
2nd Floor
PO Box 653
www.VisitStMarysMD.com
info@visitstmarysmd.com
301-475-4200 x *1404

May 28, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Board of Directors of the Visit St. Mary's MD offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns 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. As is evident at the typical 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. The situation also creates congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes.

Visitors come to St. Mary's County to enjoy 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. This will also support our growing recreational tourism industry by building infrastructure for those who want to experience our county by biking and hiking. This project not only enhance the county experience for this demographic but makes it safer for them as well. 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.

We urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,

Regina Faden, Chair

Board of Directors:

Kim Aus

Nancy Easterling

Jim Grube

Chris Kaselemis

Phil Langley

Laschelle McKay

Scott Sanders



May 19, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to offer my full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns 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 peak travel periods, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes.

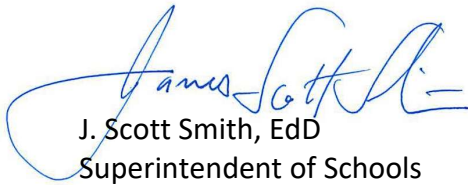
Additionally, St. Mary's County, where the project is located, has the fastest-growing workforce in the State of Maryland. An April 2019 Forbes article stated that "...California-Lexington Park in Maryland emerged as the city with the highest share of high-tech jobs in its local economy in the country."¹ The high concentration of STEM jobs in this region is driven by the presence of The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. Pax River NAS is three miles east of the project area; Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles south of the project. These installations employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors. Many of these employees rely on MD 5 and traverse the Great Mills project area on a daily basis for access to work, school, day care, and other local

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

destinations. For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,



J. Scott Smith, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

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

May 19, 2021

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

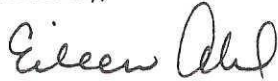
The University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland, located in California, MD, offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for 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 periods, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes.

Additionally, St. Mary's County, where the project is located, 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 The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. Pax River NAS is three miles east of the project area; Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are located 11 miles south of the project. These installations employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors. Many of these employees rely on MD 5 and traverse the Great Mills project area on a daily basis for access to work, school, day care, and other local destinations. For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,



Eileen Abel, PhD

Executive Director, USMSM

240-577-0676

edabel@umd.edu

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

May 25, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:


St. Mary's College of Maryland offers its full support for the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration's (MDOT SHA) application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project*. This critical rural project strongly aligns 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 peak travel periods, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes.

Additionally, St. Mary's County, where the project is located, 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 The Patuxent River Naval Air Station, home of the Naval Air Systems Command, The Naval Air Warfare Center – Aircraft Division, and various other Navy/DOD activities. Pax River NAS is three miles east of the project area; Naval Air Station Webster Field and Coast Guard Station St. Inigo are located 11 miles south of the project. These installations employ more than 20,000 active-duty, civilians, and contractors. Many of these employees rely on MD 5 and traverse the Great Mills project area on a daily basis for access to work, school, day care, and other local destinations. For our neighbors in St. Mary's County who seek to make these vital transportation connections to employment and educational opportunities, the *MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project's* improved safety, reduced delays, and more reliable travel times will help support equitable access to opportunity and economic growth.

I urge you to approve this regionally significant rural project. The application represents the strong partnership among MDOT SHA, 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,



Paul A. Pusecker III
Vice President for Business and CFO

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