



CALVERT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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April 5, 2022

The Honorable James F. Ports, Jr., Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
P.O. Box 548
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Secretary Ports:

The Calvert County, Maryland Board of County Commissioners would like to thank you and the Maryland Department of Transportation business units for another outstanding year of mutual cooperation to maintain the integrity and safety of our roads. We express sincere gratitude for the FY 2021 for funding for funding Safe Routes to School through the Community Safety and Enhancement Program. This project will provide safer alternatives for our bicyclists and pedestrians along MD 261 from Beach Elementary School to the Chesapeake Village neighborhood, and from Beach Elementary along Old Bayside Road.

Calvert County has identified three major top priorities that are critical to the safe traveling safety of our growing population needs.

2022 TOP PRIORITY HIGHWAY PROJECTS

1. **Thomas Johnson Bridge:** Since 2002, our top priority has been the replacement of the Thomas Johnson Bridge; this will remain our number one priority. We were pleased to hear the announcement from Senators Cardin and Van Hollen that \$1 million dollars has been assigned to Southern Maryland through the FY22 Federal Omnibus funding for design of improvements to MD 4 between MD 235 in St. Mary's County, and for the Thomas Johnson Bridge. This project is critical to national homeland security, as well as safety. The bridge serves Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, a large international liquefied natural gas export facility, and a major U.S. Naval Base – Patuxent River Naval Air Station. The bridges carries more than 31,400 vehicles per day, with an estimated increase to 38,275 vehicles per day by 2040. The bridge also serves as an evacuation route to a densely populated Metropolitan Planning Organization Area, and the region, the Thomas Johnson Bridge has far exceeded of its two-lane bridge capacity. Additional funding to complete this project remains urgent. Safety, security, the economic wellbeing and efficient transportation of Southern Maryland relies on the Thomas Johnson Bridge. We ask that you assist with funds for the design phase and show future phase funding.
2. **Phase 3A and 3B – MD 2/4 Widening between the southern end of MD 765 in Prince Frederick at Industry Lane to north of Stoakley Road:**
 - Phase 1: MD 231 at MD 2/4 to just south of Commerce Lane is complete.
 - Phase 2: from just south of Commerce Lane to just north of Fox Chase Dr. is complete.
 - Phases 3A and 3B: immediately to the north of the current Phase, from just north of Fox Run to north of Stoakley Road **is a priority**.

This project will widen this route to six lanes with access control and turning movement restrictions, and interchanges at the north and south termini. Phases 3A and 3B, which includes approximately two thirds of a mile, are the focus of the county's request for design, engineering and construction funding. It is imperative that its function be improved as the only north/south arterial highway in the county that serves more than 45,000 vehicles per day, with a projected increase to 57,500 by 2040. This route is the primary transportation link through the county. Our ability to evacuate or respond in the event of emergencies will be substantially compromised if planned upgrades to this highway are not expedited. This project is included in the Highway Needs Inventory.

Calvert County also desires to relieve congestion on MD 2/4 in the Prince Frederick area. This corridor will soon have eight traffic signals (Stoakley Rd., Traskers Blvd., Fox Run Blvd., proposed Armory Square, Dares Beach, Main Street, MD 4/MD 231 and Old Field Lane). Even with the road improvements, backups occur. We strongly encourage SHA to explore intelligent transportation systems strategies that would allow for more dynamic control of signals through Prince Frederick, changeable message signs approaching Prince Frederick to notify motorists of incidents causing unusual delay, and alternate routes and expanding CHART capacity to view traffic along Maryland 2/4. We believe this corridor would be ideal for a pilot program.

- 3. MD 231 Corridor Improvements:** Based on traffic study findings, the county requests necessary design improvements and construction to help move traffic safely and efficiently on MD 231. These corridor improvements are critical not only the safe movement of daily commuters, but also as an important emergency evacuation route out of the area; MD 231 is a major artery linking Southern Maryland counties. Being one of the most heavily traveled single lane highways in the area, MD 231 is part of the triangle of highway connections consisting of MD 2/4, MD 235 and MD 5. This triangle connection is an important economic commerce zone for the Tri-County area and the entire corridor should be assessed for safety and level of service improvements at various intersections from MD 2/4 to MD 5. The upgrade of MD 231 will be vital to Southern Maryland's Regionally Significant Project to enhance Commuter Bus Services and further Park and Ride development in Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties.

Calvert County has also identified other projects for your consideration. The following projects will enhance safety and will benefit the needs of the citizens and businesses in our county.

SAFETY, CONGESTION RELIEF, HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

MD 231 Corridor Improvements: This project is in support of our number three (3) top priority and includes several intersection projects. These intersections require immediate attention for safety enhancements and must be immediately studied to identify the improvements needed to improve motorist safety, relieve congestion and provide more efficient travel. The following road segments and intersections have been a source of constant concern for our citizens:

- MD 231 from Prince Frederick Boulevard to Helena Drive;
- MD 231 at Stafford Road; and
- MD 231 at Adelina Road (MD 508).

TRANSIT

- 1. Service Expansion:** With the completion of our five-year Transportation Development Plan (January 2016), service enhancements and expansion were defined as a future priority as a result of this study. We will work with our local MTA regional planner to coordinate and prioritize route expansion, as well as secure funding to implement service changes.

2. **Transit Transfer Station:** This project is still a priority. We are continuing to move forward with the project with the help of the Maryland Transit Administration's Office of Local Transit Support and other local agencies.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Our Community Safety and Enhancement Program will promote safety in the municipalities of Chesapeake and North Beach, and the Lusby Town Center. The Lusby Town Center project will further the goals of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and Calvert County Transportation Plan, as well as the Lusby Town Center Master Plan in creating walkable communities:

1. **Richfield Station Intersection:** The Town of Chesapeake Beach recently conducted a traffic study which was submitted to SHA to improve upon the safety of the intersection. The town is asking SHA to consider all options for this intersection.

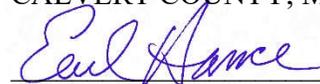
The following projects, when funded for construction, will help further implementation of Calvert County's Town Center master plans.

1. **MD 760 (Rousby Hall Road) from east of MD 765 (HG Trueman Road) to west of MD 765 and MD 765 from Appeal Lane to south of MD 760 – Lusby Town Center Streetscape:** A portion of this network of streetscape has been completed. We are asking the state to fill the gaps between completed development projects along these roads.

Thank you for your consideration of Calvert County's transportation priorities. We trust your department will consider our transportation priorities when formulating this year's transportation budget. We look forward to working with you and your staff during the upcoming year. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Tamara Blake-Wallace, Principal Planner, Department of Planning & Zoning. Ms. Blake-Wallace may be reached via phone at 410-535-1600, extension 2631, or via email at Tamara.Blake-Wallace@calvertcountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND



Earl F. Hance, President



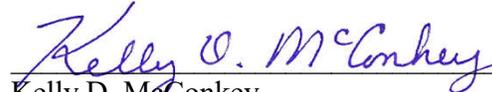
Steven R. Weems, Vice President



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