



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

The Honorable Emily Keller

Mayor

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April 20, 2022

The Honorable James Ports, Jr.
Maryland Secretary of Transportation
P. O. Box 548
Harry R. Hughes Department of Transportation Building
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076 - 0548

**RE: HAGERSTOWN MAYOR & COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES
2022 MDOT CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Dear Secretary Ports:

Thank you for being such a strong supporter of our community. We are very thankful for all the efforts to restore the Highway User Revenue (HUR) funds. Every penny of the HUR funds we receive is used to pave streets and alleys and is critical to maintaining our transportation infrastructure.

As you prepare the Consolidated Transportation Plan, I am pleased to submit to you the Hagerstown Mayor & Council's list of priority transportation items based on the discussion at our April 19, 2022 Work Session:

1. **I-81 Widening.** 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 for the collaboration between the community and the State Highway Administration (SHA) to submit past grant applications and we will continue to advocate however we can for future funding. We advocate for the widening of all 12 miles to the Pennsylvania line over the next 10 years.
2. **BPPA Study Implementation.** In February of 2020, SHA funded and completed a *Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area* (BPPA) study of the downtown and Bester elementary walkshed to improve connectivity, increase safety and improve pedestrian and bicycle user comfort. The study included several recommendations for Route 40 including countdown pedestrian lights, improved crosswalk markings, and speed management on Washington Street east of Cannon Avenue. We request these recommendations be implemented by SHA. We plan to request a Safe Routes to School grant to rebuild the traffic signal at Potomac Street and Baltimore Street as recommended by the BPPA study.
3. **Park Circle Railroad Crossing Upgrades.** We are working with the rail coordinators in the Office of Traffic and Safety to upgrade the three crossings (Virginia Avenue, Walnut Street, and Summit Avenue) that are badly in need of repair, especially Walnut Street. The State agreed to fund these improvements in December of 2015 but the improvements are still not complete.



4. **Eastern Boulevard Corridor Improvements.** 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.
5. **US Route 40 (Dual Highway) Pedestrian Issues.** 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 HEPMPO in 2015. We are grateful for the excellent progress SHA has made in the implementation of sidewalks and crosswalk improvements. We ask you revisit this study and implement portions of this study that were not implemented including ways to make all 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. We also endorse the completion of the speed management study that the HEPMPO is currently conducting.
6. We strongly support and ask for continued funding from the “alternative” transportation funding programs including:
 - **Safe Routes to School Program:** We also appreciate that we have benefitted from eight grants that we were fortunate enough to obtain through this program and they have significantly improved accessibility around our many educational institutions;
 - **Bikeways Grants:** Following our *2016 Bicycle Master Plan*, we obtained grants that allow us to create our award-winning bicycle infrastructure;
 - **Transportation Alternatives Program:** We 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). We plan to request TAP funds for the construction in 2023.

On behalf of the City Council and myself, 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.

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If you have any questions or need additional information before the tour meeting date, please do not hesitate to contact our City Engineer, Rodney Tissue at 301-739-8577 Extension 128, or rtissue@hagerstownmd.org.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HAGERSTOWN



Emily Keller
Mayor

c: Washington County Delegation members
Hagerstown City Council
Scott Nicewarner, City of Hagerstown, City Administrator
Rodney Tissue, City of Hagerstown, City Engineer
Kathy Maher, City of Hagerstown, Director of Planning & Code Administration
Anthony Crawford, District Engineer, MDSHA District 6
John Martirano, Washington County, County Administrator
Scott Hobbs, Washington County, Director of Engineering
Matt Mullenax, Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization
James F. Kercheval, Executive Director, The Greater Hagerstown Committee