



Mayor & Council of Berlin

10 William Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811

Phone 410-641-2770 Fax 410-641-2316

www.berlinmd.gov

February 5, 2025

Mayor

Zack Tyndall

Vice President

Dean Burrell

Council Members

Steve Green

Jay Knerr

Shaneka Nichols

Jack Orris

Town Attorney

David Gaskill

Town Administrator

Mary Bohlen

Hon. Theodore "Ted" Elder

Worcester County Commissioners

1 Market Street, Room 1103

Snow Hill, Maryland 21863

President Elder,

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and Council, citizens, and business community within the Town of Berlin to respectfully ask the Worcester County Commissioners to add the following projects to their list of State Transportation Priorities for 2025. The following projects are critical to improving the safety of our community and are not listed based on prioritization of the requested project:

- **PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ACROSS RT. 113 at RT. 376 (BAY STREET)**
 - The creation of RT. 113 divided the Town of Berlin. Residents who live west of RT. 113 have access to the town's only grocery store, healthcare providers, Town Hall, and Worcester County library without having to cross a major highway. However, the residents who live east of RT. 113 lack safe access to these vital services. The intersection of RT. 113 and RT. 376 is also perceived by residents as unsafe due to incidents from the past. Currently, this intersection is the only marked crosswalk along RT. 113 in Berlin for residents to travel between neighborhoods. The Town of Berlin is requesting a pedestrian bridge to help improve pedestrian safety and increase interconnectivity between the neighborhoods and districts in town.
 - **2025 UPDATE: The Town of Berlin applied and received a \$1.2 million Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods planning grant through the Federal Highway Administration and is currently partnering with the State Highway Administration to meet the deliverables.**
- **TRAFFIC SIGNAL RT. 50 and RT. 818 (NORTH MAIN STREET)**
 - The intersection of RT. 50 and RT. 818 (North Main Street) serves as one of the primary entrances to the Town of Berlin. Due to increased traffic along RT. 50 and growth in the area, the safety of this intersection is of concern for our community. The Town of Berlin requests the installation of a traffic light to improve safety for those who live, work in, and visit our town.
- **SIDEWALKS RT. 346 (OLD OCEAN CITY BOULEVARD) - FROM SUNLIGHT LANE TO RT. 818 (MAIN STREET) and FROM RT. 818 (MAIN STREET) to RT. 377 (WILLIAM STREET)**
 - The residents of Sunlight Lane currently do not have safe pedestrian access to Main Street. Residents are forced to walk on the roadway and share travel lanes with vehicular traffic.

- SIDEWALKS RT. 346 (OLD OCEAN CITY BOULEVARD) - FROM RT. 818 (MAIN STREET) to RT. 377 (WILLIAM STREET)
 - The Town of Berlin has several new businesses opening along the Rt. 346 corridor between Main Street and William Street. Unfortunately, there are no sidewalks in place along this section of roadway. Pedestrians are forced to share the roadway with vehicular traffic. Recently, the Town of Berlin police department and the Berlin Fire Company responded to an accident along this section of Rt. 346 where a pedestrian was hit by a vehicle.
- IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND SAFETY AT THE INTERSECTION OF RT. 818 (NORTH MAIN STREET) and RT. 346
 - Currently, the intersection of RT. 818 and RT. 346 is a four-way intersection with flashing lights. However, due to increased traffic at this intersection, confusion occurs and often creates unsafe conditions. The Town of Berlin would like to work towards a solution that improves traffic flow and safety at this intersection.
- CROSSWALKS – RT. 818, RT. 374, RT. 376, RT. 377, and RT. 346
 - The Town of Berlin has completed an inventory of sidewalks along the State Highways within municipal limits where yellow ADA pads already exist. In an effort to improve pedestrian safety and walkability, the Town of Berlin would like to have crosswalks painted connecting the yellow ADA pads that are already installed.
- BERLIN BIKEWAY – MARYLAND AND DELEWARE RAILROAD (MDDE)
 - The Town of Berlin continues to work with our county, state, and federal partners to construct a shared-use pathway for bicycle and pedestrian use utilizing an existing MOU with the MDDE Railroad. The project is known as the Berlin Bikeway and will connect northern Worcester County (Berlin) to southern Worcester County (Snow Hill).

The Town of Berlin continues to work with the Maryland Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian safety along the state highways in town limits. We are prioritizing the addition of crosswalks along several state highways throughout the Town, including RT. 818, RT. 374, RT. 376, RT. 377, AND RT. 346. Many roadways already have ADA pads on the sidewalks but lack painted crosswalks. Without painted crosswalks on the road, motorists do not give pedestrians the right of way, creating unsafe conditions for those on sidewalks.

The Town of Berlin greatly appreciates the Commissioner's consideration regarding the addition of these projects to the State Transportation Priorities in Worcester County for 2025.

Respectfully,

Mayor Zack

Mayor Zack Tyndall
 10 William Street
 Berlin, MD 21811
 (410) 641-1954
MayorZack@berlinmd.gov

MDOT Priority Letter Submission Form

Submitted by Sara Gorfinkel on May 15th, 2025 at 9:32 am

Status: *Completed*

MDOT Priority Letter Submission Form

Introduction

This year, local governments have two ways to submit Local Priority Letters to MDOT. Either can be used. It is the choice of the local government which they prefer. The two ways are:

- Submit Letters in the same way as they have in the past.
- Submit Letters through this online portal.

The MDOT will give letters equal consideration regardless of the method chosen by the locality.

The MDOT has created this online portal as part of an overall effort to be more transparent and responsive in its processes and decision-making. With this portal, and the guidance it provides for articulating local priorities, the MDOT seeks to achieve better, more consistent understanding of local priorities. To do this, the portal provides localities with both fillable forms asking for specific priorities, as well as providing for free-form expression to provide the opportunity to offer greater context and narrative.

This portal is also responsive to The TRAIN (Transportation Revenue and Investment Need) Commission's Interim Report recommendation: "... MDOT should standardize local priority letters...". MDOT understands the need to ensure that local governments have the opportunity to express their priorities, and the following submission form seeks to balance that need along with the recommendation of the TRAIN Commission, with the aim to better serve and be responsive to each local jurisdiction.

Key Terms

Below are definitions of key terms. In the event a project may fit in one or more categories please use your best judgement.

"System preservation" and "state of good repair" project means a project where the purpose is to improve the condition or operations of an existing asset without adding new capacity such as travel lanes. Examples include bridge rehabilitation or replacement, pavement rehabilitation, incident responses, and variable message signs.

"New capacity" and "capacity expansion" project means a project where the purpose of the project is to improve the ability of the transportation system to move people and goods. Examples including widening a road, building a new road, a new transit station, and a new transit line.

"Feasibility study" means a study of a transportation need to identify a project that can address the need. A study would complete sufficient work to allow MDOT to evaluate whether the identified concept should be included in the CTP.

"Safety" project means a project whose primary purpose is to reduce or prevent crashes but that does not add or expand the capacity of roads or transit. Examples include roadway realignment, installation of rumble strips, and guardrail.

"Bike/pedestrian" or "complete streets" project means a project to provide accommodations and/or improve safety for bicyclists and/or pedestrians. Examples include new sidewalks, installation of cycle-tracks and road diets with bike lanes.

"Transit-oriented development" project means a project to support or help the construction of new residential, commercial and institutional development near a rail or bus rapid transit station.

Section 1. Local Government Information

First Name

Last Name

Zack

Tyndall

Title/Role		Government Entity
Mayor		Town of Berlin

Address Line 1

10 William Street

Address Line 2

City	State	Zip Code
Berlin	Maryland	21811

Section 2. Local Government Priorities

1. What are the jurisdiction's overall goals related to transportation policies and spending?

For questions 2-10, please list the jurisdiction's priorities in ranked order, with #1 as the highest priority. Please limit responses to 4 lines of text per priority. Please include the following information in the description of the priority: location, need, proposed improvements, and, as applicable, partners and/or existing funding. The MDOT recognizes that some projects will fit into multiple categories (e.g., a project that is both a safety project and state of good repair, or even into multiple categories). In those instances, choose the one that best matches the project and note overlapping categories in the project description. An example of a priority description is provided below:

- *MD XX (Cross Street 1 to Cross Street 2) Bike/Pedestrian Improvements - MD XX from Cross Street 1 to Cross Street 2 has high rates of crashes involving cyclists and pedestrians. The County seeks to increase safety by installing a new sidewalk and bike lane in both directions of MD XX. The proposed project is identified in Corridor Study A. Though listed in the bike/pedestrian improvement category, this project includes safety elements.*

2. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for system preservation/state of good repair?

regular maintenance of the state roads that run through Berlin (Broad, William, Main, Old OCB) also the addition of crosswalks along state roads.

3. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for new capacity or capacity expansion projects?

The Town of Berlin continues to be committed to working with the Maryland Department of Transportation to improve pedestrian safety along the state highways in town limits. We are prioritizing the addition of crosswalks along several state highways throughout the Town, including RT. 818, RT. 374, RT. 376, RT. 377, AND RT. 346. Many roadways already have ADA pads on the sidewalks, but lack painted crosswalks. Without painted crosswalks on the road, motorists do not give pedestrians the right of way, creating unsafe conditions for those on sidewalks.

4. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for feasibility studies?

The Town of Berlin applied for and received a \$1.2 million Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods planning grant through the Federal Highway Administration to research the feasibility of a bike/ped bridge across Rt 113 and is currently partnering with the State Highway Administration to meet the deliverables.

5. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for safety projects?

1. TRAFFIC SIGNAL RT. 50 and RT. 818 (NORTH MAIN STREET)
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4. Push Button Light Crosswalk at Healthway Drive and Buckingham Elementary School on Main Street

6. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for bike/pedestrian and/or complete streets projects?

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BERLIN BIKEWAY/RAILS AND TRAILS

The Town continues to advance rails and trails "Berlin Bikeway" project planning in order to enhance bike and pedestrian traffic and accessibility throughout town.

7. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for Transit-Oriented Development projects?

No rapid transit exists in Berlin - however, it is of note that in Berlin, the Hospital and Wal Mart are the stops with the highest volume of Shore Transit.

8. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for smaller interventions (generally under \$5 million total cost)? Examples might include new striping, flex posts, addition of a stop sign or street light, signal retiming, or transportation demand management (e.g., vanpools) investments.

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9. What are the jurisdiction's other transportation priorities that do not fit in the categories listed above?

Additional bike and walkability around town that would be achieved through the Berlin Bikeway, rails-and-trails and pedestrian bridge.

10. Across all of the categories listed above, what are the jurisdiction's top five overall transportation priorities?

1. SIDEWALKS ALONG ALL OF RT. 346 (OLD OCEAN CITY BOULEVARD)

2. IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND SAFETY AT INTERSECTION OF RT. 818 (NORTH MAIN STREET) and RT. 346

3. CROSSWALKS – RT. 818, RT. 374, RT. 376, RT. 377, and RT. 346

4. TRAFFIC SIGNAL RT. 50 and RT. 818 (NORTH MAIN STREET)

5. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ACROSS RT. 113 at RT. 376 (BAY STREET)

11. What are the jurisdiction's priorities for housing and economic development and where is it anticipated to occur?

Berlin is primarily focused on infill development and increased density within town limits. The Town of Berlin requests that any growth areas identified for residential use outside of current municipal boundaries be converted into "conservation areas" to work toward establishing an urban growth boundary. Residential growth will be focused on infill development within current municipal boundaries. Commercial growth areas currently in Worcester County's Comprehensive Plan should remain with an emphasis on commercial development along Route 50, east of Route 818.

If the jurisdiction has submitted a priority letter through different means, you may upload the letter here.



[TOB_2025_CTP.pdf \(0.23 MB\)](#)

I attest that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of my organization and that all information contained within is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Sara Gorfinkel, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

I agree to be legally bound by this document.