



Allan H. Kittleman
Howard County Executive
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April 1, 2018

The Honorable Pete Rahn
Office of the Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Re: FY 2019 Howard County Priority Letter

Dear Secretary Rahn:

Please accept the following "Priority Letter" from Howard County. The letter includes a list of transportation projects Howard County is recommending be included and funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) FY 2019-2024 Consolidated Transportation Program and also includes requests for technical and policy support. The projects requested for funding are listed in priority order.

Thank You and Acknowledgments

Before listing our requests, please accept our thanks and appreciation for prior and ongoing State funding for the following projects:

- Widening of US 29 from Seneca Drive to MD 175.

MD 32 Corridor Improvements

- Phase 1: Dualization of MD 32 from MD 108 to Linden Church Road
- Phase 2: Linden Church Road to I-70, including MD 32/MD 144 intersection improvements
- Phase 3: Evaluation of the widening MD 32 north of I-70 to the Carroll County line
- Design and construction improvements at the US 1 and Kit Kat Road intersection.
- US 29: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Planning for enhanced express bus service to Silver Spring along the US 29 BRT corridor.

We also wish to thank you for the valued technical assistance provided by MDOT staff, especially the extensive assistance from the Maryland Transit Administration and the State Highway Administration on the following projects:

- Investigation of safety and congestion issues on the MD 99 corridor between Marriottsville Road and US 29/MD 99 intersection
- US 1 Safety Evaluation
- I-95 Noise Walls in Elkridge
- US 1 at Montevideo Road intersection
- Blandair Park interchange on MD 175

Requests for Funding

The following recommendations are the result of review and input by County staff from several departments and offices, as well as by elected and appointed officials. Input also included an extensive public involvement process, including a public meeting held on January 24, 2018, a survey, and receiving written comments from approximately 220 people and organizations. The results of the survey and public meeting materials can be found at:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Howard-County-Priority-Letter-FY2019>

Design & Engineering Projects

1. *I-70 Corridor*
 - I-70: US 29 to US 40; widen one lane in each direction
 - Upgrade/reconstruct the I-70/Marriottsville Road interchange
 - Design and implement I-70/US 29 interchange capacity enhancements
2. MD 175: Evaluate the improvement of existing access points into Columbia Gateway Drive, including a third access point through the potential extension of MD 108 across MD 175 into Columbia Gateway Drive and direct access to Columbia Gateway Drive from I-95.
3. MD 175: US 1 to Snowden River Parkway; continued comprehensive traffic modeling leading to design alternatives including the US 1/ MD 175 and US 1/I-95 interchanges.
4. Pedestrian, ADA access and safety improvements: design and construct pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements in Howard county's pedestrian master and corridor plans. The county is specifically requesting the state cooperate, support, and fund development of projects identified in the US 1 safety evaluation, including providing safe crossing for pedestrians at the US 1/Guilford Road intersection.
5. MD 108: Guilford Road to Trotter Road; design and construct pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, and streetscape improvements.
6. MD 175: US I to Dorsey Run Road; widening and reconstruction including final design and construction of the US I/MD 175 interchange.
7. MD 103 at US 29: Addition of a third lane along MD 103 onto the ramp towards US 29 northbound.

8. Traffic Signal Back-up Generators: Evaluate and plan a system for developing a back-up generator installation program at key state highway traffic signals within Howard County.
9. Noise Walls: Design, and construct noise walls at Dumhart Road, at the southwest corner of I-95 and the MD 216 interchange.

Capital & Construction Projects

1. US 29 from the Middle Patuxent River to Seneca Drive, widening including access improvements to the Rivers Edge Community, and accommodations for BRT.
2. Transit Capital Improvements:
 - Purchase rolling stock (buses) to replace vehicles that have exhausted their useful life to maintain a fleet with a state of good repair and to expand service on a number of the most traveled fixed routes.
 - Rolling stock, road and signal improvements and development of high quality BRT stations in Downtown Columbia and future stations for the US 29 BRT system.
3. Bike Howard Express. Funding, support and cooperation to implement Howard county's comprehensive strategy to significantly improve bicycle infrastructure during the next 3 years, including the north laurel connections bicycle route from savage to north laurel, new shared-use pathways providing bicycle access into Downtown Columbia, Columbia Gateway and along Dobbin Road, and nearly 14 miles of bike lanes and wayfinding on county roads, including important crossings of state roads.
4. US 1 Sidewalk: Construct sidewalk along US 1 southbound in the median between North Laurel Road and the Prince George's County line.
5. MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Ten Mills Road.
6. MD 100 and MD 103: Replacement of the existing interchange.

Requests for Technical Assistance and Support

We would like to request MDOT's cooperation and technical support and assistance for several important county led projects and initiatives on state roads and highways. These projects reflect the county's desire to advance projects in coordination with the state to ensure timely and effective project delivery. These projects are:

- US 1: MD 175 to just north of Montevideo Road; phased arterial highway reconstruction including pedestrian, transit and streetscape improvements.
- US 1: Construct intersection improvements along US 1 at MD 103 (Meadowridge Road), and Whiskey Bottom Road.
- Widening of the Marriottsville Road Bridge over I-70 to enable future widening of Marriottsville Road north to MD 99 and south to US 40.

- Continue to support planning for a transitway connecting Downtown Columbia; Oakland Mills, and Columbia Gateway Office Park, including a possible transit bridge over US 29.
- North South Connector/Jug Handle: A major collector planned to connect the US 29/Broken Land Parkway interchange to Little Patuxent Parkway, including a spur off the existing northbound US 29 off-ramp pursuant to the Downtown Columbia Plan.
- MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Centennial Lane.
- Future designation of Downtown Columbia as a Transit Oriented Development.
- Design and implementation of road capacity improvements at Broken Land Parkway/Snowden River Parkway and MD 32, including bicycle and pedestrian access improvements to park and ride lots.

Other State Initiatives

1. The County urges the state to fully fund and implement MDOT's MARC Growth and Investment Plan improvements on the Camden Line, including track improvements, rolling stock and additional service.
2. The County fully supports the SHA's I-95 Active Traffic Management project. We urge the MDOT to continue to advance it.

Both of these projects are needed to ensure safe and efficient travel throughout the region and Howard County.

Thank you for considering Howard County's priority transportation needs.

Sincerely,



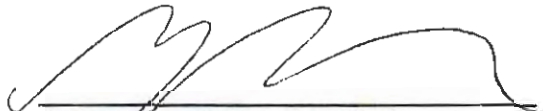
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County Executive

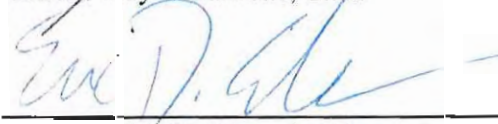
Thank you for your positive endorsement of Howard County's state transportation projects and priorities.

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File: CTP Priority Letter FY 2019 to FY 2024