



Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
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April 8, 2021

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

Re: FY 2022-2027 Howard County Priority Letter

Dear Secretary Slater,

Please accept the following "Priority Letter" from Howard County, a list of transportation projects Howard County is recommending be included and funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) FY 2022-2027 Consolidated Transportation Program. Howard County's priorities are the result of review and input by County staff, elected and appointed officials, public meetings, surveys* and our initiative to develop the Howard County Strategic Roadway Safety Plan Input, which lays out a vision: ***To prevent all traffic crash-related fatalities and serious injuries and to reduce the number and severity of crashes in Howard County.***

Therefore, we want to focus your attention on Howard County's highest priority transportation need: ***Safety and public transit on US 1 and US 29.*** The projects listed below reflect the county's top priority projects, which are reflected in current and pending county investments of over \$6.8 million to advance and deliver projects on US 1.

MDOT should fund these requests over the next two years to ensure completion and deliver safety and mobility for all users in these critical corridors.

1. US 1

- Construction and support of pedestrian and traffic safety initiatives and measures in the US 1 corridor, including:
 - Funding the construction of four pedestrian safety projects being designed in coordination with MDOT. The four projects are:
 - Brewers Court at US 1
 - Guilford Road at US 1
 - Rowanberry Drive at US 1
 - Dr. Patel Drive at US 1

- Supporting sidewalk construction along US 1 southbound in the median between North Laurel Road and the Prince George's County line.
- Providing technical assistance and support for Howard County's project to reconstruct US 1 from MD 175 to just north of Montevideo Road with pedestrian, transit and streetscape improvements.
- Supporting the construction of a traffic signal at the entrance of future high school number 13 on US 1.

2. US 29

Restoring design and engineering funds for corridor improvements to US 29 near Rivers Edge Road including safe and convenient access to the River's Edge Community from both North and Southbound US 29 and accommodations for BRT; funding at least two transit buses to advance a joint effort with Montgomery County to integrate with the Flash service in Montgomery County; planning funds to advance long term planning for regional BRT service on the US 29 corridor.

Highlights and Acknowledgments

Along with our focus on US 1 and US 29, we also wish to highlight MDOT's continued efforts to advance and implement transit on the high priority corridors identified in the Regional Transit Plan to address the corridor gaps in the existing regional transit system, as well as continue to invest in the Camden Line to increase frequency, reliability and amenities.

However, we also want to highlight our concerns about the negative impacts of future cuts to state capital and operating support for Howard County public transit services. Furthermore, we continue to urge you to focus, and support, resources and policy development to direct federal funding toward Complete Streets projects to build a safe and effective transportation network for everyone.

Before listing the balance of our requests, please accept our thanks and appreciation for prior and ongoing funding and continuing technical assistance for the following projects:

- Funding the MD 32 Alternate Bike Route and recognizing the importance of its implementation in the next 2-3 years as MDOT completes its work to enhance MD 32 from MD 108 to I 70.
- MDOT partnership and funding for the intersection improvements along MD 108 at Centennial Lane.
- Capacity, pedestrian, and bicycle related improvements on MD 103 at US 29.
- Funding for the feasibility study for the Ellicott City/Oella Pedestrian Bridge.
- Providing technical assistance to advance the MD 103/US 1 and US 1/ Montevideo Road Projects intersection.

Requests for Funding

The following requests related to Design & Engineering and Construction projects reflect Howard County's priorities beyond the two year time horizon but within the six year time horizon of the Consolidated Transportation Plan.

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. Pedestrian, ADA access, and safety improvements: design and construct pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements in Howard County's pedestrian master and corridor plans.
3. MD 175: Advance planning and design of existing access points to enhance access for all transportation modes into Columbia Gateway Drive area an important focus of HoCo by Design, Howard County's general plan, including a third multimodal access point at MD 108 / MD 175 and direct access to Columbia Gateway Drive from I-95.
4. 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.
5. MD 108: Guilford Road to Trotter Road and eventually to Centennial Lane; design and construct pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, and streetscape improvements.
6. MD 175: US 1 to Dorsey Run Road; widening and reconstruction including final design and construction of the US 1/MD 175 interchange.
7. Noise Walls: Design and construct noise walls at Dumhart Road, at the southwest corner of I-95 and the MD 216 interchange and along MD 32 from Cedar Lane to MD 108.

Capital & Construction Projects

1. 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.
2. Purchase of rolling stock to support and fully integrate with Montgomery County's Flash system to advance enhanced regional transit service and linkages between Downtown Columbia and Montgomery County.

3. BikeHoward implementation: Funding, support and cooperation to implement priority projects from Howard County's Bicycle Master Plan, a comprehensive strategy to improve bicycle infrastructure during the next 5 years. Significant projects include new shared-use pathways providing bicycle access into Downtown Columbia, Columbia Gateway, historic Savage, Elkridge, and along Dobbin Road, as well as a countywide wayfinding system
4. MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Ten Mills Road.
5. 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 Projects
 - Advancing the Route 1 Corridor elements of HoCo by Design
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Designation of Downtown Columbia as a TOD and advancing work to designate the Laurel Park/City of Laurel MARC station areas as Maryland Designated TOD.
- Revise technical specifications for MTA Commuter Bus 201's route to improve access to BWI Airport via the MD 32/Broken Land Parkway Park and Ride lot and Downtown Columbia prior to solicitation of a new contract for the service in two to three years.

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

Sincerely,



Calvin Ball
County Executive

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

COUNTY COUNCIL



Council Vice Chair Opel Jones

HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION



Chair, Clarence K. Lam



Chair, Jessica Feldmark

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File: CTP Priority Letter FY 2022 to FY 2027