



Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive
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April 1, 2020

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

Re: FY 2021-2026 Howard County Priority Letter

Dear Secretary Slater

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 2021-2026 Consolidated Transportation Program and includes requests for technical and policy support. Funding requests are listed in priority order.

We wish to highlight and support MDOT's 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.
- Manage the transportation network using Transportation Systems Management & Operations strategies to deliver data driven innovative solutions to address safety, congestion and travel time reliability on state roads in Howard County, including the I-95 Active Traffic Management project.

We also continue to have concerns with MDOT cutting the US 29 projects, especially the US 29 widening project, a project the affected community was led to believe was progressing. This decision has had a major impact on public input and our requests.

Thank You and Acknowledgments

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

- Corridor Improvements on MD 32 from MD 108 to I 70, including advancing planning work north of I 70 to the Carroll County line.
- Construction of improvements at the US 1 and Kit Kat Road intersection.
- Feasibility study for the Ellicott City/Oella Pedestrian Bridge.

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

- MD 103 at US 1
- 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 was also gathered through an extensive public involvement process, including a public meeting held on February 20, 2020, a survey, and written comments. The results of the survey, a summary of comments and public meeting materials can be found at: <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/County-Administration/Transportation/Transportation-Projects/Priority-Letter>

Design & Engineering Projects

1. Restoration of \$2 million in Design and Engineering funds for corridor improvements to US 29 near Rivers Edge including design of more safe and convenient access to the River's Edge Community from both North and Southbound 29.
2. Transit: Design and engineering for Howard County's Priority transit corridors; including enhanced express service to Silver Spring along the US 29 transit corridor.
3. 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
4. Pedestrian, ADA access and safety improvements: design and construct pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements in Howard County's pedestrian master and corridor plans.
5. MD 175: Advance planning and design 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.
6. 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.
7. MD 108: Guilford Road to Trotter Road; design and construct pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, and streetscape improvements.
8. MD 175: US 1 to Dorsey Run Road; widening and reconstruction including final design and construction of the US 1/MD 175 interchange.
9. MD 103 at US 29: Addition of a third lane along MD 103 onto the ramp towards US 29 northbound.
10. 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. Upon restoration of previously cut \$2 million and completion of design and engineering, US 29 improvements from the Middle Patuxent River to Seneca Drive, to include widening and convenient and safe access infrastructure from North and Southbound 29 for the Rivers Edge Community and accommodations for BRT.
2. US 1 Safety: Funding, and technical support to advance the planning, design and construction of pedestrian and traffic safety initiatives and measures in the US 1 corridor, including:
 - Funding the final design and construction of projects articulated in the US 1 safety evaluation project.
 - Supporting the sidewalk along US 1 southbound in the median between North Laurel Road and the Prince George's County line
 - Providing funding and technical support to county and state led projects to accelerate project delivery in the corridor.
 - Providing support to secure rights of way on county projects to accelerate project delivery.
3. 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.
4. Purchase of rolling stock to support and link with Montgomery County's Flash system to advance enhanced regional transit service and linkages between Downtown Columbia and Montgomery County.
5. Bike Howard Express: Funding, support and cooperation to implement Howard County's comprehensive strategy to significantly improve bicycle infrastructure during the next 2 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.
6. MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Ten Mills Road.
7. 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 Master Plan.
 - MD 175 to just north of Montevideo Road; phased arterial highway reconstruction including pedestrian, transit and streetscape improvements.
 - Construction of a traffic signal at the entrance of future high school number 13 on US 1.
- 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.
- MD 108: Construct intersection improvements along MD 108 at Centennial Lane.
- 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.
- 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 2-3 years.
- Designation of Downtown Columbia area as a Transit Oriented Development.

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

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File: CTP Priority Letter FY 2021 to FY 2026