



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of The Board of County Commissioners

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Creade V. Brodie, Jr.
Jacob C. Shade

David A. Eberly, *County Administrator*
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April 10, 2015

The Hon. Pete K. Rahn, Maryland Transportation Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: Allegany County 2015 Transportation Priorities

Dear Transportation Secretary Rahn:

The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County, in cooperation with the municipalities of Allegany County is pleased to have the opportunity to present its transportation priorities to your department for the FY 2016 – 2020 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The County's transportation priorities focus on system preservation, safety and supporting economic development.

To be consistent with the Chapter 725 process, representatives from the County and the municipalities discussed and prioritized the projects at a coordination meeting held Wednesday, March 18, 2015. The Board of Commissioners, as a part of the agenda on Thursday, March 26, 2015 endorsed the 2015 priority projects. On behalf of Allegany County, the Town of Barton, the City of Cumberland, the City of Frostburg, the Town of Lonaconing, the Town of Luke, the Town of Midland, and the Town of Westernport, we would like to submit our projects as follows:

1. Preliminary Engineering for US 220 National Highway System

Allegany County supports to move forward with preliminary engineering for US 220. This represents Maryland's portion of a larger joint study from I-68 to Corridor H in West Virginia. The Tier II phase is underway consisting of detailed engineering work to determine the number of alternatives that will be considered. Through this process, alternatives will ultimately be narrowed down to one alignment. This corridor is a growing residential area with some strip commercial development. Many vacant buildable lots exist in the corridor that could be developed for residential use. The development of a multilane highway in this area would ease the current conflict between local and through traffic, improve safety and encourage economic vitality in Allegany County.

2. Braddock Road/MD 736 Access and Safety Improvements Project – Phase II

Phase II improvements will widen, adjust the drainage, and install acceleration and deceleration lanes along Braddock Road from Interstate 68 Exit 33 to the entrance of the ABC at FSU. This project will realign the intersection of Winner's View Terrace to be directly across from the Braddock Street intersection. Bicycle lanes will be constructed on both sides of the intersection to improve safety for bicyclists. State support is necessary to further progress toward Master Plan goals; the City has identified the need for this project to enhance safety of an existing intersection along the State route. Furthermore, completion of this project establishes the required transportation infrastructure for planned economic development of the properties adjacent to Braddock Road. Design for the entire project is 98% complete; construction of the project is anticipated in 2015.

3. Greene Street Complete Street Project

The Greene Street Complete Street Plan is underway and is expected to be completed by Spring 2015. The plan provides a vision for a safer, more attractive and economically viable street spanning from Baltimore Street to the end of City Maintenance at I-68 Exit 42. Greene Street, formally US Route 220 and prior to that it was part of the National Road, is in need of significant rehabilitation to handle the traffic on this West Side arterial street. Lack of local funds as well as any funds for road improvements have prevented the City from being able to do anything on this street since the days of Urban Systems Federal Aid sharing through the Maryland SHA. The portion of Greene Street between Baltimore Street and Lee Street has been re-designated as part of the National Road Scenic Byway, as part of its campaign to replace scenic byway signage along the route. The City is looking to implement the Greene Street Complete Street Plan to improve the corridor for all modes of transportation.

4. MD 936, Grant Street Stormwater and Safety Improvements Project

The proposed project would include improvements to 1,300 linear feet of storm sewer to convey separated stormwater from Main Street (US 40) and Grant Street (MD 936) to a proper outfall. Currently, stormwater is collected in 13 inlets on Grant Street and Main Street near Grant Street and enters into a sanitary sewer. The design and construction of a new stormwater system by Maryland State Highway Administration is necessary in order for the City to be successful in eliminating combined sewer overflows, (CSOs). These 13 Maryland State Highway Administration inlets significantly contribute to Frostburg's CSOs. The City is under an MDE Consent Decree and Court Order to eliminate its CSOs. The project should also improve the safety characteristics for motorists by removing excess sheet flow due to surface runoff during periods of heavy rain or major snow melts, as there is a steep grade from Main Street to the bottom of the hill near Blair Street. Additional safety and pedestrian enhancements such as ADA compliant sidewalks and crosswalks would be part of the project. Maryland SHA and the City are currently reviewing an MOU in which MD SHA will partner with the City of Frostburg in the completion of this project and provide the funding to address the aspects of the project for which MD SHA is responsible.

5. MD 135 Safety Improvements in Luke, Maryland

MD Route 135 spanning from the MD 135 intersection with WV 46 (to Bloomington) to Westernport, is in need of improvements. These improvements include road geometry, drainage, lighting, safety signage, and surface rehabilitation. This portion of roadway is subject to industrial truck traffic from the NewPage Paper Mill. Widening and adjusting the roadway geometry for improved near Grant Street and the filter plant has been a major safety concern. The parts of the roadway which parallel a rock cliff are in need of improved lighting, and stormwater management. These improvements would reduce hazards and collisions to the approximate 6,000 vehicles which travel this portion of State Highway daily. The Town of Luke, Maryland and Allegany County find these improvements necessary to keep all vehicular and pedestrian traffic safe.

6. Allegany County Transit Operating Funding

Allegany County Transit operates fixed route service and ADA Demand Response in Allegany County, Maryland. The Transit's mission is to provide the citizens and visitors of the Allegany County service area with safe, reliable, courteous, efficient and clean transportation. Continued support for operations funds will help us achieve our mission.

7. Allegany County Transit Capital Funding

Allegany County Transit is requesting the following Capital Items in FY 2016 according to their capital planning: Four small replacement buses, one heavy duty replacement bus, Computer Hardware Upgrades, Office Equipment, Shop Equipment, Modern Facility Security System, and Vehicle Parking Addition.

8. Baltimore Street Bridge Rehabilitation

This project remains a priority for Cumberland and we appreciate the SHA's assistance in obtaining Federal Bridge Replacement Funds through a reallocation of Local Government Funds from jurisdictions outside of Allegany County. The City, County and State have put effort into this project, but unfortunately the City is currently lacking local funds for this project. The project is listed here because the City is hopeful that local funds can be available in the future. The Baltimore Street Bridge over Wills Creek needs a total deck replacement. The bridge connects the main downtown business area with the West Side of Cumberland.

9. MD 36 Corridor Management Project

Allegany County, in partnership with the City of Frostburg, and the Towns of Midland, Lonaconing, Barton, and Westernport, are requesting a Corridor Improvement Project for MD 36. The project would include land preservation, environmental improvements, efficient transportation design, sign upgrades and safety enhancements in an effort to revitalize the participating communities along MD 36. An emphasis should be placed on aesthetic and functional improvements to the gateways at each town or city. Furthermore, at these gateways, pedestrian connectivity should be considered. As an example, in Frostburg at the intersection of US 40 and MD 36, a pedestrian disconnect exists between the residential/historic Main Street community and the newer commercial area. Examining opportunities for pedestrian improvements is an important component of the project, especially in this instance, as the regional high school is located at this intersection. The MD 36 Corridor Improvement Project would result in attractive gateways, improved safety, and an increased opportunity for future development, while revitalizing communities and conserving natural resources in Western Maryland.

10. Maryland Avenue Improvements between Short and Lamont Streets

This section of Maryland Avenue is the last section that must be improved to link the Rolling Mill and Virginia Avenue project. Improvement work includes street widening and resurfacing, retaining wall reconstruction and reinforcement, sidewalk improvements, and streetscaping.

11. MD 135 (Pratt Street) Pavement Improvements

The Town of Luke requests that the State of Maryland, consider MD 135, also known as Pratt Street, for pavement repair. The Town would like to see this area improved for public safety, and to improve quality of service in the area by providing better road surfaces for general and industry-related freight traffic.

12. Park Avenue and Braddock Road Intersection and Approach Project

A traffic study and conceptual plan was prepared in 2014 by Bennett, Brewer, and Associates, and was funded by Allegany County through the Cumberland Area MPO Unified Planning Work Program. The study examined pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular needs and a conceptual plan for intersection improvements addressing the issues identified. The City of Frostburg plans to seek funding to move forward with the design and construction phase(s) of the intersection improvements, as this intersection serves as a main gateway to the City via Braddock Road (MD 736), the intersection has a substantial amount of pedestrian traffic and all forms of traffic are expected to increase as enrollment at Frostburg State University is expected to grow 10 - 20% by 2020.

13. Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements to Industrial Boulevard

Building upon previous coordination meetings between the City of Cumberland and SHA officials in 2011, design and implement bicycle and pedestrian improvements along both sides of Industrial Boulevard (MD Highway 51) between Winston Street (Canal Place) on the north and Mesick Road on the south. The improvements evaluated in the feasibility and design assessment would include, but not necessarily be limited to, a combination of dedicated bike lanes, shared lane bikeways, and bike boxes at key intersections as may be warranted and appropriate. This project is part of the City's Grand Loop bicycling route as recommended in the 2008 Trails and Bikeways Master Plan, which is a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The project is identified and described as an on-road facility that is part of the "Grand Loop." It is identified as part of Goal A-9 of the plan and is depicted in the master plan map of the bikeway network in Appendix A. The project supports the City's long-range plans to extend bicycling access for residents and visitors from the two regional bike trails that connect in Downtown Cumberland. The City considers this route to be an essential connection, since it is the only level route that provides a direct link between the downtown area and the other planned neighborhood bikeway routes in South Cumberland. The route is currently used occasionally by the Bicycling community and has been rated as dangerous for bicycling in its current condition.

14. Mechanic Street Access Road Improvements

Mechanic Street from north of Bedford Street to I-68 (at Howard Street), the block of Bedford Street from North Centre Street to Mechanic Street and Baltimore Street from Mechanic Street to the scenic railroad crossing provide important economic and transportation linkage between the Central Business District of Cumberland and other major transportation routes, including I-68 and MD 51. The route also serves as a critical emergency traffic route for police, fire and ambulance service because the Public Safety Building is located at Bedford and Mechanic Streets. The City is interested in pursuing MPO, State, and/or Federal funding support for the necessary structural and streetscape improvements needed to effectively rehabilitate this corridor and position it to serve its growing traffic role as one of the city's most critical traffic arterials.

15. Mount Savage Road (MD 36) Streetscape

Allegany County requests streetscape improvements on Mount Savage Road (MD 36) from New School Road to the intersection of Iron Rail Street at the east end of town. Improvements should consider pedestrian accommodations and furnishings, landscaping, and lighting. We feel these improvements will further revitalize the community of Mount Savage. We are aware of the challenges associated with the project, but are hopeful for any improvements that can be made along the state route.

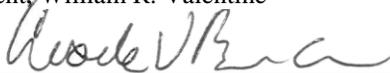
Thank you for your consideration of these transportation priorities in Allegany County. We look forward to a productive partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation and to actively participate in the development of the CTP to plan and implement these projects.

If you need any clarifications about our recommendations please contact us.

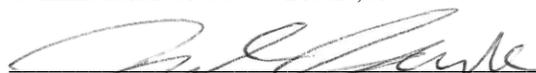
Sincerely,
The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County



President, William R. Valentine

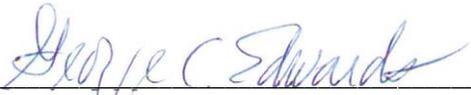


Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.



Commissioner Jacob C. Shade

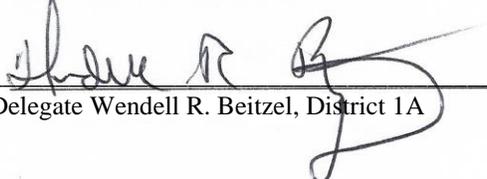
Western Maryland Delegation



Senator George C. Edwards, District 1



Delegate Jason C. Buckel, District 1B

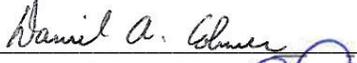


Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel, District 1A



Delegate Michael W. McKay, District 1C

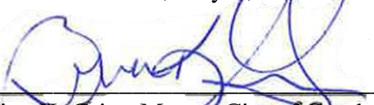
Municipal Elected Officials of Allegany County



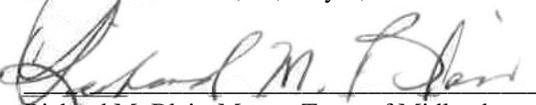
Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton



Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke



Brian K. Grim, Mayor, City of Cumberland



Richard M. Blair, Mayor, Town of Midland



W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg



J. Daniel Laffey, Mayor, Town of Westernport

John W. Coburn, Mayor Town of Lonaconing

Enclosures:

- Project Questionnaires, for all projects
- Braddock Road MD 736 Access & Safety Improvement Project Phase II Map
- Greene Street Streetscape Improvement Map
- Corridor Management Project for MD 36 Map
- Maryland 135 Safety Improvements Luke, Maryland Map
- MD 936 - Grant Street Stormwater and Safety Improvements Project Map
- Baltimore Street Bridge Rehabilitation Location Map

- Park Street and Braddock Road Intersection and Approach Project Map
- MD 135 (Pratt Street) Pavement Improvements Luke, Maryland Map
- Industrial Boulevard Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Improvements Map
- Maryland Avenue between Short Street and Lamont Street Map
- Mount Savage (MD 36) Streetscape Map
- Mechanic Street Access Road Improvements Map

Cc:

- The Hon. George C. Edwards, Maryland Senate
- The Hon. Jason C. Buckel, Maryland House of Delegates
- The Hon. Wendell R. Beitzel, Maryland House of Delegates
- The Hon. Michael W. McKay, Maryland House of Delegates
- Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton
- Brian K. Grim, Mayor, City of Cumberland
- W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg
- John W. Coburn, Mayor Town of Lonaconing
- Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke
- Richard M. Blair, Mayor, Town of Midland
- J. Daniel Laffey, Mayor, Town of Westernport
- Anthony F. Crawford, District 6 State Highway Administration
- Mike Nixon, Manager, Regional Planning, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Ian Beam, Regional Planner, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
- David Eberly, Administrator, Allegany County
- Paul Kahl, Director, Public Works, Allegany County
- Adam Patterson, Public Works, Allegany County
- Roy Cool, Planner III/ MPO Coordinator

- Siera Wigfield, Transportation Planner, Allegany County
- David Dorsey, Acting Planning Coordinator, Allegany County
- John Difonzo, City Engineer, City of Cumberland
- David Umling, Planner City of Cumberland
- Elizabeth Stahlman, Director of Community Development, City of Frostburg
- Robert Ketterman, Community Development Specialist, City of Frostburg