



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

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William M. Rudd, *Attorney*

April 10, 2018

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

RE: Allegany County 2018 Transportation Priorities

Dear ~~Transportation Secretary Rahn:~~ *Pete!*

The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County, in cooperation with the municipalities of Allegany County are pleased to have the opportunity to present our transportation priorities to your department for the FY 2019 – 2023 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP.) The County's transportation priorities focus on system preservation, safety, and supporting economic development. The County appreciates your willingness to have face-to-face meetings to move projects forward efficiently to better serve the needs of our constituents.

Thank you for funding the following projects from the 2017 Transportation Priority request:

- Bowling Green Drainage Study Phase 1 from Milnor Avenue to Aspen Avenue;
- Frostburg's Grant Street CSO Project;
- Transportation Alternative Program funding for Baltimore Street Access, formerly New Town Center (Cumberland Downtown Mall)
- Allegany County Transit Capital and Operating funds in FY 2018

To be consistent with the Chapter 725 process, representatives from the County and the municipalities discussed and prioritized the following projects at a coordination meeting held Wednesday, February 28, 2018. The Board of Commissioners, as a part of the agenda on Thursday, March 8, 2018 endorsed the 2018 priority requests. 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 the following projects:

1. US 220 Cresaptown Improvements (US 220, MD 53, and MD 636)

Alligany County supports transportation system management (TSM) improvements to relieve the congestion along existing US 220, MD 53, and MD 636 (Warrior Drive) by requesting funding for detailed engineering and right-of way acquisition. This project is in response to the public meeting held in Winter 2017, the public was in strong support of immediate improvements to the area.

2. US 220 Supplemental Corridor Evaluation Report (South of Cresaptown to WV State Line)

The Maryland Department of Transportation/State Highway Administration is conducting a US 220 Supplemental Corridor Evaluation Report from south of Cresaptown to the West Virginia State line, recommendations and findings should be made to determine how to move forward with a high capacity limited access highway. The overall plan is for the development of a multi-lane highway to ease the current conflict between local and through traffic, improve safety and encourage economic vitality in Allegany County.

3. Baltimore Street Bridge Rehabilitation

The City and County is requesting obligation of bridge funding for the Baltimore Street Bridge over Wills Creek, which is in need of a total deck replacement. After the latest inspection in November 2017, the bridge received a condition rating of 4. The project is estimated to be \$5 million dollars. The City is currently funding a study to determine if the bridge can be rehabilitated or will need replaced. The bridge is a vital transportation link between the main downtown business district, the West Side residential area, suburban areas along U.S. Route 220 south in Allegany County. The bridge also handles relief traffic when sections of I-68 west of downtown Cumberland are closed or blocked.

4. Braddock Road (MD 736), Center Street, Bowery Street, and Park Avenue Intersection Improvements

The Braddock Road (MD 736), Center Street, Bowery Street and Park Avenue intersection is a major pedestrian thoroughfare for FSU students; this intersection is the gateway to the Frostburg Central Business District for those entering the City via Interstate 68, Exit 33 (Braddock/Midlothian Road). The purpose of this project is to reduce vehicular conflicts, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance the appearance of the City at this intersection. The project will include changes to traffic patterns, narrowing of a one-way street, new pedestrian crossings, construction of new sidewalks, and additional lighting of the intersection. A roundabout is one alternate that is currently being evaluated by SHA.

5. MD 51 Intersection Safety Improvements

Allegheny County requests funding for highway safety enhancements for the MD 51 (Oldtown Road) intersection with Mexico Farms Road and Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) Road.

6. MD135 Safety & Structural Improvements in Luke, Maryland

MD 135 spanning from the intersection with WV 46 (to Bloomington) to intersection of MD 36 in Westernport, is in need of improvements for safety. These improvements include road geometry, stabilization of cliffs along the roadway, drainage, safety lighting, there is no lighting from the Bloomington Bridge to the turn on MD 135, safety signage, and surface rehabilitation. In April 2015, this area was affected by a significant rock fall which left the road way operating with one-way traffic for a quarter mile section for a period of time. This has been cleaned up but not fully addressed. In fact, another section of road experienced another rock fall in January 2016. The narrow roadway, wet weather and vibration from industrial truck traffic make this issue a concern for the Town of Luke and the industries that travel this road. Widening and adjusting the roadway geometry near Grant Street and the filter plant has been a major safety concern. The parts of the roadway which parallel the 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 Allegheny County find these improvements necessary to keep all vehicular and pedestrian traffic safe.

7. Allegheny County Transit Operating & Capital Funding

Allegheny County Transit is requesting funding for operations and capital projects. Allegheny County Transit operates fixed route service and ADA Demand Response in Allegheny County. The Transit's mission is to provide the citizens and visitors of the Allegheny County service area with safe, reliable, courteous, efficient and clean transportation. Continued support for operations funds will help us achieve our mission. Capital Funding request for FY 2019 includes preventative maintenance, one Heavy Duty Bus Replacement, one Medium Bus Replacement, and two Light Duty Bus Replacements.

8. Baltimore Street Access

The City of Cumberland requests continued funding for construction of this project; \$2 million in TAP funding has been obligated but the project is estimated to cost \$7 million. This project was recommended in a recent Economic and Transportation Study of Downtown Cumberland. The City plans to reopen the Baltimore Street pedestrian mall to "complete street," which will allow vehicular traffic to travel through the area, yet maintain space for pedestrians, bikes and outdoor dining. Design work for this project is underway and funded by the City. So far, the State has been very helpful concerning funding of the construction and City is looking forward to continuing that good relationship through the funding and construction phases of the project. Without grant funds, this project will not be possible. In addition to the transportation needs satisfied by this project, the City is also anticipating Economic Development and increased tax base to be accomplishments of the project.

9. MD 135 Safety Barrier at Westernport Elementary

The Town of Westernport would like to request construction funding to build safety barrier wall 350 feet long between MD 135 and the Westernport Elementary School playground. Westernport Elementary is located along MD 135 with a wrought iron fence as the barrier between the playground and ball field and MD 135. In April 2015, there was a tractor trailer accident on MD 135 and the driver lost control and ran into a gas station less than 1000 foot from the school.

10. Cumberland Bridges Rehabilitation, Cumberland St, Fayette St, and Washington St

The City of Cumberland is requesting the State to obligate funding to replace the bridges on the west side of Cumberland, the Cumberland Street bridge, the Fayette Street Bridge and the Washington Street Bridge. These bridges are over CSX railway, and the bridges were believed to be owned by CSX but they no longer take ownership of the infrastructure. As of February 2018, the Cumberland and Washington Street Bridges are closed to traffic due to their unsafe conditions. If funding is made available, the City hopes to incorporate CSX in the solution to replace the bridges.

11. US 220 Bowling Green Drainage Improvements

Allegany County requests continued funding for Bowling Green drainage improvements, from Milnor Avenue to Moss Ave. After the June 12, 2014 flood event, State Highway Administration(SHA) and Allegany County collaborated with Whitney Bailey Cox & Magnani, LLC (WBCM) in preparing the Bowling Green Flooding Hydrology/Hydraulics Study from Milnor Avenue to Moss Avenue along the US220 corridor. The study consisted of a hydrology study over 1,184 acres, review of the existing stormwater systems' hydraulic conditions, and proposed short-, mid-, and long-term solutions in response to the flood event. Phase I of the drainage improvement project was awarded in the winter 2017. Allegany County requests that SHA continue to obligate funding for the cost of finalizing engineering/design, permitting, administering the advertisement/bid/award, and construction management services. SHA will fund the construction cost of all work within the US220 right-of-way and split the cost with Allegany County for all work from US220 to the CSX Railroad.

12. MD 36 Sidewalk Safety Improvements in Lonaconing

The sidewalks along MD 36 through Lonaconing are a safety hazard for pedestrians. Several locations along route 36 the curb height is less than 2" in height and increasing the chances of vehicles ability to veer onto the sidewalks and strike a pedestrian. Route 36 has approximately 9,000 vehicles passing through this section daily. Lonaconing is requesting the sidewalk/curbing height be increased to normal safety standards to reduce the likelihood of vehicles mounting the sidewalk and injuring pedestrians. Sections of this project will also need to improve for ADA compliance.

13. Braddock Road Pedestrian & Bicycle Improvements

The project lies along MD 736 in Allegany County. The purpose of the project is to provide continuous bicycling and pedestrian connection from the Center Street intersection to Braddock Street and bicycle lanes to Active Network, residences, Appalachian Lab, Edgewood Commons, and Frostburg State University (FSU). The corridor is currently used by pedestrians and bicyclists, but does not have adequate facilities for their safe travel. Preliminary engineering by MDOT SHA is scheduled to begin in June 2018 and is anticipated to be completed within 2 years.

14. Great Allegheny Passage Stabilization, Drainage & Surface Improvements

Allegany County requests construction funding for stabilization, drainage and surface improvements on the Great Allegheny Passage. Improvements are needed in various locations throughout the County to eliminate the on-going maintenance that is required to combat drainage and trail surface issues. These improvements will address historical problems and improve safety for all trail users.

15. MD 135 Access Improvement in Westernport

At peak times the traffic in the vicinity of Church Street (MD 135) is backed up in both lanes due to access to the following businesses: McDonald's, The Dollar General and Fair Price Market. The Town of Westernport would like to request MDOT to obligate money to improve traffic and access control.

16. 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.

17. Mount Savage Road (MD 36) Pedestrian and Surface Improvements (Retrofit Fund 78)

Allegany County requests retrofit funding (Fund 78) for pedestrian and pavement surface improvements on Mount Savage Road (MD 36) from New School Road to the intersection of Iron Rail Street at the east end of town. There is a lack of connectivity in the sidewalks and there are challenges relating the narrow roadway. 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.

18. Maryland Avenue Improvements between Short and Lamont Streets

This section of Maryland Avenue represents the essential traffic link between the recently completed Rolling Mill (Maryland Avenue) and Virginia Avenue Corridor projects. Planned improvement work includes street widening and resurfacing, retaining wall reconstruction and reinforcement, ADA and sidewalk improvements, and streetscaping.

19. Greene Street Rehabilitation & Streetscape Improvements

The City of Cumberland request funding to retrofit Greene Street, one of the city's oldest streets and is in need of extensive and long-deferred structural (base and subbase improvements), roadway surface rehabilitation, and pedestrian, bicycle, ADA, and streetscape upgrades. 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 redesignated 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. The Greene Street Complete Street Plan (financed by the Cumberland Area MPO) was completed in 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.

20. Industrial Boulevard (MD 51) Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements

The City of Cumberland requests funding for design and engineering for non-motorized transportation on Industrial Boulevard, MD 51. Sections of Industrial Boulevard in Cumberland currently have a level of service of F for bicycles, which are legally entitled to use the highway. Sidewalk and crosswalk facilities are provided in part, but may not be complete. In order to more properly comply with current Complete Streets standards and to ensure public safety for pedestrians and bicyclists seeking to utilize the corridor, additional improvements are needed.

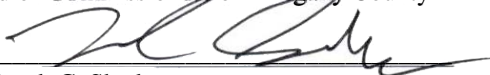
21. LaVale to Great Allegheny Passage Connection

Allegheny County is finalizing a study with alternative routes to connect lower LaVale (from Long Drive) to the Great Allegheny Passage. The County requests support and funding for design and engineering and ROW acquisition for the preferred route.

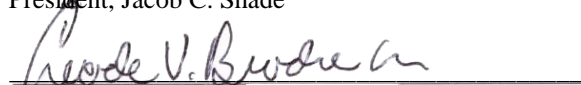
Thank you for your consideration of these transportation priorities in Allegheny County. We look forward to a productive partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation and to actively participate in the development of the CTP to plan and implement these projects.

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


Sincerely,
The Board of Commissioners of Allegheny County



President, Jacob C. Shade

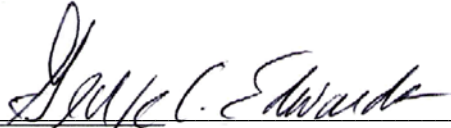


Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.

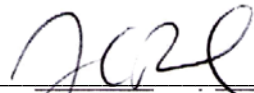


Commissioner William R. Valentine

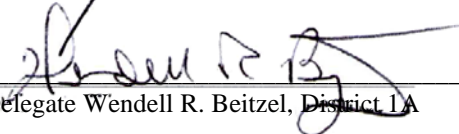
District 1 Delegation



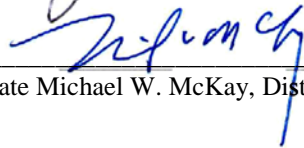
Senator George C. Edwards, District 1



Delegate Jason C. Buckel, District 1B



Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel, District 1A

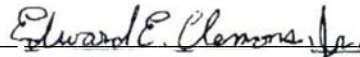


Delegate Michael W. McKay, District 1C

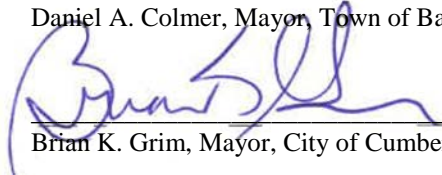
Municipal Elected Officials of Allegany County



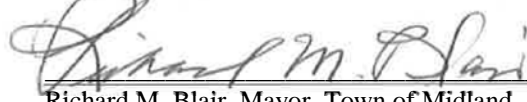
Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton



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



Brian K. Grim, Mayor, City of Cumberland



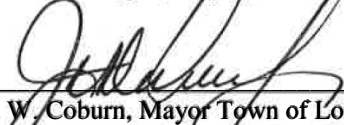
Richard M. Blair, Mayor, Town of Midland



W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg



J. Daniel Laffey, Mayor, Town of Westernport



John W. Coburn, Mayor, Town of Lonaconing

Enclosures:

Project Questionnaire and maps, for all projects

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
Bill Atkinson, Maryland Department of Planning
Anthony Crawford, District 6 State Highway Administration
Aviva Brown, State Highway Administration
Tyson Byrne, 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

James Raszewski, Director Office of Local Transit Support,
Maryland Transit Administration
Chris Taylor, Regional Planner, Maryland Transit Administration
Brandon Butler, Administrator, Allegany County
Paul Kahl, Director, Public Works, Allegany County
Adam Patterson, Public Works, Allegany County
Roy Cool, Planner III/ MPO Coordinator
Siera Wigfield, Planner, Allegany County
John DiFonzo, City Engineer, City of Cumberland
Robert Smith, Senior Engineer, City of Cumberland
Elizabeth Stahlman, Director of Community Development, City of
Frostburg
Laura Michael Community Development Specialist, City of
Frostburg
John Rudd, Town Administrator, Lonaconing Maryland