



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
VIA: Terry Shannon, County Administrator *TS*
FROM: Charles Johnston, Director *CJ*
Terry Carlson, Director *Terry Carlson*
DATE: February 1, 2012
SUBJECT: Calvert County Transportation Priorities

Background:

The Tri-County Council (TCC) has requested an updated list of Calvert County's regional transportation priorities. This request was made to assist them in updating our regional priorities in advance of forwarding them to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for MDOT's use in the development of the FY 2013-2018 Consolidated Transportation Plan (CTP). Each year we also send a local priorities list directly to MDOT, also for their use in CTP development, and in preparation for the Transportation Tour to be scheduled for later in the year. This year, since MDOT is requiring significantly more detail on the priority list, TCC has set their submittal letter date earlier in the process in order to compile that detail on the regional priorities list. Public Works, Planning and Zoning, and Community Resources will be coordinating in-house to compile detailed information on the County's local priorities and will be submitting the County's priority list to MDOT in March, to comply with MDOT's submittal date of early April.

Discussion:

Staff from Planning and Zoning, and Public Works coordinated on reviewing the Southern Maryland Regional transportation priorities. Attachment 1 is a draft list of regional transportation priorities for BOCC review and consideration.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

Discuss the regional priorities list at the February 7, 2012 meeting. After review and approval, please forward the attached letter to the Tri-County Council along with the finalized list of priorities.

Attachments:

1. Ltr to TCC Wayne Clark
Regional Transportation Priorities

Cc: Terry Carlson
Pat Haddon
Maureen Hoffman

Attachment 1

February 8, 2012

Mr. Wayne E. Clark, Executive Director
Tri County Council for Southern Maryland
P.O. Box 745
Hughesville, MD 20637

Dear Mr. Clark:

Thank you for coordinating the revised FY2013 Southern Maryland Regional Transportation priorities list.

The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners support the Regional Infrastructure Committee's (RIAC) approach FY 2012 of recommending a top regional highway project and a top regional transit project. The Board also supports the three regionally significant projects as proposed by the RIAC.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment and support and look forward to continuing to work with you and the Tri County Council for Southern Maryland on planning for these projects that enhance transportation in our region. Thank you again for coordinating this effort.

BOCC

INCL

CC: Chuck Johnston
Terry Carlson
Maureen Hoffman
Pat Haddon

Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Priorities (CTP 2012-2017)

Final for Council Adoption 6.23.2011

Recommendations: The Tri-County Council's Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee (RIAC), met to review the three letters of recommendations from the three Boards of County Commissioners for regional transportation priorities. The RIAC has developed the below revised priorities which are based on project status, next steps in the funding process, and considerations shared in the Board's requests. The Council asked for County Delegations and Commissioners' Boards responses in writing for consideration of the Council Executive Board at the May 19th meeting and full Council action at the June 21 meeting. These priorities have been approved by the executive board for approval of the full council.

Southern Maryland's Top Two Regional Priorities:

1. Highway Priority: Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge and Maryland Route 4 – Initiate the detailed design of the Governor Thomas Johnson Bridge replacement and highway corridor widening, including the upgrade of MD Route 4 and MD Route 235. Request includes construction funding for short-term intersection improvements.¹ This project will relieve commuter congestion, improve safety, help position the Patuxent River Naval Base for future BRAC realignments, improve emergency evacuations, and provide bicycle tourism opportunities between the Three Notch Trail and Solomon's Island.
2. Transit Priority: Southern Maryland Transit Corridor – Initiate preliminary engineering to perform a detailed alternate analysis to select Light Rail/Bus Rapid Transit alignment alternatives along the MD 5/US 301 Transit Corridor, from the Branch Avenue Metro Station to Waldorf/White Plains.² As called for in both the Southern Maryland Transportation Needs Assessment (2008) and the Southern Maryland Transit Corridor Preservation Study (August 2010), we must preserve rights of way in the face of continuing residential and commercial development pressure along the transit corridor to maintain the feasibility of this option. The project will assist in implementation of county and town comprehensive plans, as well as sector and transportation plans including facilitating Priority Funding Area (PFA) conformity. When constructed, this project will improve the mobility and accessibility of people, facilitate the movement of goods within the region, and complete the missing link for transit oriented development. The project will also improve efficiency, ensuring the best use of existing and future transportation networks, resources and infrastructure.

¹ Detailed design cost for Thomas Johnson project is \$85 million; cost for intersection ramp for Route 2/4/Route 235 estimates requested from SHA.

² Alternate analysis cost for Light Rail/Bus Rapid Transit alignments study is \$10 million.

Southern Maryland's Regionally Significant Projects:

1. Construction of a controlled access highway option for US 301 in Waldorf, which balances the needs of the residential and business communities, while minimizing the impacts to cultural, social, and natural resources; and,
2. Enhanced Commuter Bus Services and further Park & Ride development in Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's Counties.
3. The widening of MD Route 2/4 from the southern intersection of MD 765 (Main Street) at Industry Lane, to north of Auto Drive, widening to six lanes, with access controls and turning restrictions and an underpass in the vicinity of Fox Run Boulevard