



Martin O'Malley, *Governor*
Anthony G. Brown, *Lt. Governor*

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, *Secretary*
Neil J. Pedersen, *Administrator*

February 5, 2010

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Diana Zinkl, J.D., M.C.P.
2009 Chair, Riders' Advisory Council
600 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Zinkl:

Thank you for your letter highlighting the importance of maintaining an ongoing, collaborative relationship with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to develop bus priority features throughout the region's roadway network. Along with Governor Martin O'Malley and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Secretary Beverley Swaim-Staley, the State Highway Administration (SHA) is committed to a multi-modal approach to improve congestion. We share your belief that transit is a vital component for our region's economy and mobility.

The SHA is coordinating with WMATA to identify potential transit treatment locations under our system preservation and maintenance program. This ongoing effort will support WMATA's Priority Corridor Network (PCN) by identifying opportunities for quick and low cost solutions, such as signal-phasing enhancements, bus stop/shelter placement, curb repairs, and queue jumps.

In September 2009, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) submitted an application under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Funding. In developing this application, SHA identified possible locations for queue jumping and transit signal priority along several select corridors in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. If the MWCOCG TIGER application is awarded, SHA will begin work with WMATA to pilot locations for transit signal priority along US 1 in Prince George's County. In preparation, we recently met with WMATA staff and vendors to discuss various technological constraints related to SHA's existing signal system.

The SHA is also coordinating with WMATA on the PCN study and will continue to stay involved as the study moves towards completion. Additionally, the SHA and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) are developing Scopes of Work for the Veirs Mill Road Multimodal Study and the Georgia Avenue Busway Study in which Montgomery County is advancing a total of \$11.0 million for SHA to lead this work. The studies will focus on transit enhancements such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on MD 586 (Veirs Mill Road) and MD 97 (Georgia Avenue). Finally, we are also a stakeholder in the county-led BRT feasibility study which will determine a network of potential BRT corridors in Montgomery County.

My telephone number/toll-free number is [410-545-0400](tel:410-545-0400) or [1-800-206-0770](tel:1-800-206-0770)

Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech [1.800.735.2258](tel:1-800-735-2258) Statewide Toll Free

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Thank you again for your letter. The MDOT and the SHA will continue to work with WMATA staff to identify opportunities to enhance and sustain this region. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Reena Mathews, Regional Planner for Montgomery County, at 410-545-5668, toll-free 888-204-4828 or via email at rmathews@sha.state.md.us.

Sincerely,



Neil J. Pedersen
Administrator

cc: The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr., President, Maryland Senate
The Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates
The Honorable Jack Johnson, Prince George's County Executive
The Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Mr. Phil M. Andrews, Chairman, Montgomery County Council
Mr. Thomas Dernoga, Chairman, Prince George's County Council
Mr. Nat Bottigheimer, Assistant General Manager of Planning and Joint Development,
WMATA
Mr. John Catoe, General Manager, WMATA
Ms. Reena Mathews, Regional Planner, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division,
SHA
Mr. Gregory I. Slater, Director, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, SHA
Ms. Beverley K. Swaim-Staley, Secretary, MDOT