



Maryland Department of Transportation FY 2024 to FY 2029 Consolidated Transportation Program Briefing to Howard County

**October 30, 2023
6 PM to 8 PM**

**George Howard Building – Banneker Room
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City**

Approved Minutes

Councilmember Present: Chair Christiana Rigby, Vice-Chair Deb Jung, and Liz Walsh.

Bruce Gartner opened the meeting at 6:01 PM.

AGENDA

1. Office of Transportation Administrator, Bruce Gartner will welcome attendees.

Mr. Gartner welcomed attendees, recognized Howard County elected officials, and introduced County Executive Calvin Ball.

2. County Executive Calvin Ball will provide a greeting and introduce Council and Delegation members and remark on the County's transportation priorities.

County Executive Ball welcomed attendees and introduced local and State officials. County Executive Ball gave introductory remarks on the priorities and accomplishments of transportation projects in Howard County, including MDOT's work on mitigating the negative impacts of BWI, the grant for the Dobbin Road transportation improvements, and requested improvements along the US 1 and US 29 corridors. County Executive Ball concluded with expressing appreciation for the work of MDOT and staff.

3. Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, Paul Wiedefeld will present the capital budget, the Consolidated Transportation Program, as well as accomplishments from the past year.

Secretary Wiedefeld introduced State staff in attendance and gave an overview of MDOT's priorities, which include safety, the complete streets program, preserving the State investment in

all modes of transportation, enhancing transportation systems to serve local needs, and building a transportation that is resilient to climate change. Secretary Wiedefeld discussed the issues facing the Transportation Trust Fund.

4. MDOT Administrators and directors will present highlights and accomplishments from the past year.

- William Pines, Administrator, State Highway Administration
- Christine Nizer, Administrator, Motor Vehicle Administration
- Holly Arnold, Administrator, Maryland Transit Administration
- Melissa Williams, Director of Planning and Program Development, Maryland Transportation Authority

Administrator Arnold shared what the MTA is doing to ensure mobility, reduce traffic, and mitigate climate change, including the relaunch of the Red Line, construction on the Purple Line, a bus electrification program, partnerships with Amtrak, and investments in Howard County.

Administrator Pines gave an overview of SHA efforts to reimagine the potential of the State highway network, promote safety, increase department efficiency, and make the most out of Federal money and local investments. Administrator Pines highlighted completed projects in Howard County, including an intersection improvement project on MD 108,

Director Williams gave an overview of the MDTA's mission and the department's efforts to keep toll roads safe and invest toll revenue.

Administrator Nizer discussed efforts to improve customer service at the MVA, the MVA services available in Howard County, new tools and resources available to local governments and customers, and thanks MVA staff and local partnerships.

5. Comments and questions from elected officials.

County Executive Ball thanked the MDOT officials for their presentation. Senator Lam requested more information about the total number of projects in the plan, how the funding request compares to last year, and how future projects will be prioritized.

Delegate Feldmark asked about Vision Zero and what the approaches are for infrastructure changes versus education and behavior changes. Delegate Feldmark requested more information about the State complete streets program. Delegate Feldmark asked about the timeline for safety improvements along Route 1.

Delegate Watson inquired about the delay to projects along Route 70. Senator Hester asked specifically about the intersection between 70 and 29 and why the project isn't advancing faster if the project has funding.

Chair Rigby asked for clarification on the timeline for updates to the complete streets policy, and discussed the funding opportunities to pursue transportation projects that can make use of Federal funds. Chair Rigby reiterated support for the Route 1 projects.

Vice-Chair Jung discussed the noise issues emanating from the BWI airport and the Flash bus service to Montgomery County.

Delegate Wu asked about plans to reduce the number of traffic lights on 29 in Montgomery County.

Delegate Watson asked if Howard County should be concerned that proposed projects could be eliminated if there is not enough funding.

Councilmember Walsh thanked MDOT for focusing on multimodal projects and creating a staff team to focus on complete streets. Councilmember Walsh asked about projects to improve pedestrian safety along Route 1.

Senator Hester asked about why the Montgomery Road project has been underway longer than expected, if SHA is considering solar opportunities on SHA owned land, and if MDOT tracks the safety risks of deer.

Mr. Gartner thanked attendees.

Mr. Gartner closed the meeting at 7:35 PM.