



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) four applications for Rebuilding American Infrastructure for Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding. These important projects advance critical state and national economic development and infrastructure objectives. They will address multimodal needs in areas spread throughout the State from rural areas of Southern Maryland to the urban areas of Baltimore City.

The four projects include the following:

MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA), MD 5 Great Mills Improvement Project: MDOT SHA is seeking a grant in fulfillment of an initiative to address critical safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, environmental sustainability, and quality of life issues in the rural Southern Maryland region. Currently, MD 5 experiences long traffic queues during the peak travel period, creating congestion and safety concerns, with a crash rate significantly higher than the statewide average for similar routes. Additionally, the Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Naval Air Station Webster Field, and Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes are all located near the project area. These installations alone employ 21,500 active-duty, civilians, and contractors who all rely on MD 5 for access to destinations around Washington D.C. and Maryland in the event of a State or national emergency. This application will provide the funding to address critical needs and represents a strong partnership among MDOT SHA, St. Mary's County, Patuxent River Air Station, and other federal, state, and local partners.


MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), East-West Priority Corridor Project: MDOT MTA is seeking grant funding to improve transportation and economic opportunities for the Baltimore region by improving public transit connections between East and West Baltimore, connecting both residential communities and regional job centers. The East-West Priority Corridor is unique for the great number of employment centers it connects in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, including the University of Maryland Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview, the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the central business district of downtown Baltimore. The corridor also connects multiple residential communities, hosts two of the region's top five bus routes in terms of ridership, and provides a direct connection to the MARC regional commuter train that travels seven days a week to Washington, DC. The project's proposed improvements will facilitate faster and more reliable transit trips, strengthen multi-modal connections, and provide improvements to existing pedestrian safety issues. The project will provide near-term investments to better connect people to jobs, education, services, and leisure activities, while the region considers long-term options via the Regional Transit Plan.

MDOT Maryland Port Administration (MPA), *Seagirt Marine Terminal Berth 1 & 2 Modernization P3 Project*: MDOT MPA is seeking grant funding to add a third berth capable of serving 50-foot draft Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs) and the necessary supporting landside improvements. Baltimore's Seagirt Marine Terminal is currently undergoing improvements to Berth 3 which will allow two ULCVs to berth at once; however, the shipping industry is rapidly evolving due to COVID-19, current supply chain issues, and changes in consumer preferences. These changes have led to the industry's increase in vessel size. These trends are accelerating the frequency and number of large vessels calling ports on the US East Coast, including the Port of Baltimore. Without berth space for three ULCVs, the Port of Baltimore will be excluded from continued international trade growth. The Seagirt Marine Terminal Berth 1 & 2 Modernization P3 Project is a part of a \$500 million public-private partnership investment program to modernize, upgrade, and expand Seagirt. This project will leverage the Port's successful emission reduction program, in addition to significant rail network improvements with construction beginning on the Howard Street Tunnel expansion project later this year.

MDOT Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), *BWI Marshall Landside & Southwest Quadrant Planning Study*: MDOT MAA is seeking grant funding to adapt and modernize the airport infrastructure and surrounding state and county roadways to the changing public ground transportation needs as well as the commercial development patterns related to air cargo and surface delivery logistics. The project's objectives are to meet capacity, optimize passenger experience, enhance traffic safety, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the mix of personal, commercial, transportation network company (TNC), and transit vehicles.

I strongly support these grant applications and urge you to award the requested RAISE funds to these vital, transformative projects. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor

Cc: Secretary Greg Slater, Maryland Department of Transportation