



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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February 14, 2024

Secretary Peter Buttigieg
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Thank you for your continued leadership to advance innovative transportation programs across the United States. As Howard County Executive, I am writing to fully support the Maryland Aviation Administration's (MAA) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to help fund the BWI Marshall Airport Multi-Modal Ground Transportation Center & Automated People Mover Planning Study (Planning Study).

The Planning Study aligns with MAA's mission to "*foster the vitality of aviation statewide and promote safe and efficient operations, economic viability, and environmental stewardship.*" Additionally, this project would demonstrate a commitment to the U.S. Department of Transportation's objectives of safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation.

The Planning Study is needed to modernize key airport infrastructure, streamline the passenger journey to and from BWI Marshall Airport, and improve employment and visitor access at and surrounding the airport. This study will address changing public and employee transportation needs. It will also incorporate evolving opportunities and technologies as they relate to modes of travel, advanced mobility, and climate resilience.

As the 22nd busiest airport in the United States, with substantial projected passenger growth in the Washington-Baltimore region, BWI Marshall is challenged to accommodate passenger demands and maximize land use within its campus. Concepts will be developed for an efficient and fiscally prudent centrally located ground transportation center and automated people mover that connects key facilities at and around the airport. These concepts will address capacity needs and the traveler experience, while achieving regional and local objectives of improving safety, reducing emissions, minimizing environmental impacts, and improving access to employment opportunities. The Planning Study would include an investment roadmap developed in close collaboration with agency partners and local stakeholders, to maximize the economic health of the region in an equitable, resilient, and sustainable manner.

Howard County is a close neighbor to BWI Marshall Airport, and we recognize that enhancing multimodal connections to the Airport is an important economic, environmental, and infrastructure investment for our community. Howard County is regularly evaluating opportunities to grow our public transit connections to BWI Marshall, and this Planning Study presents an important opportunity to maximize, expand, and enhance our regional connections.



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Howard County Government looks forward to collaborating with MAA on the BWI Marshall Airport Multi-Modal Ground Transportation Center & Automated People Mover Planning Study.

Thank you for your consideration of investment in this important planning initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Calvin Ball', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive