

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Christopher M. Corchiarino
The Honorable Philp L. Dumenil
The Honorable James J. Moran
The Honorable Jack N. Wilson, Jr.
The Honorable Stephen Wilson
Queen Anne's County Board of County Commissioners
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville MD 21617

Dear County Commissioners:

Thank you for attending the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) annual Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) meeting on September 18, 2018. Queen Anne's County presented its Beach to Bridge plan to mitigate traffic on Kent Island during the busy summer months and requested that MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) provide comments on the plan. We appreciate our partnership with Queen Anne's County and will continue to work on ways to address Kent Island congestion during the summer beach season.

In the Summer of 2018, MDOT SHA implemented several different strategies to reduce traffic impacts to Kent Island, with a focus on Sunday afternoons. These strategies included active traffic signal management from Ocean City to the Bay Bridge to meter traffic, public messaging to encourage beach goers to modify leave times and to visit other attractions on the way home, additional data collection efforts, and the installation of static and variable message signs to encourage traffic to stay on US 50. MDOT SHA also worked very closely with the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MDTA) Bay Bridge operations, Queen Anne's County law enforcement, and the Maryland State Police to actively keep operations moving smoothly along US 50. This coming summer, MDOT SHA and MDTA again are committed to working with the county to improve operations during the busy summer travel season.

The MDOT SHA has reviewed the Queen Anne's County Beach to Bridge plan and according to the Office of Attorney General, the closures and restrictions requested here and the authority for lawful traffic stops are not permitted under the Transportation Article of the Maryland Code. The County's plan also may adversely affect Kent Island business and residents, as well as drivers that may want to visit family, friends, or the local business establishments.

Our review also identified that many of the proposed closure locations lack adequate space to safely complete turn-around maneuvers or would require turn-arounds on private property. These conditions could create unsafe situations at those locations and could cause queues on US 50, an additional safety concern. As noted last year, similar queues formed along eastbound US 50 due to the presence of Queen Anne's County law enforcement's flashing lights as part of enforcement activities along westbound US 50.

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The MDOT SHA's data collection efforts have indicated that some minor modifications to the strategies implemented in 2018 may again positively affect congestion on Kent Island's local roads, including starting mitigation efforts sooner in the day on Sundays or modifying the placement and number of variable message signs to help manage demand. The MDOT SHA is open to other suggestions that could improve the situation for both residents and visitors, as we continue to address this complex challenge. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact C. Scott Pomento, P.E, MDOT SHA Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering Director, at 410-545-0411, toll-free 1-888-204-4828, or via email at spomento@mdot.state.md.us. Mr. Pomento will be happy to assist you. Of course, you can always contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Gregory Slater
Administrator

cc: C. Scott Pomento, P.E., Director, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, MDOT SHA

bcc: Mr. Benjamin Allen, Assistant Regional Planner, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division, MDOT SHA
Mr. Ian Beam, Regional Planner, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT TSO
Mr. Eric Beckett, Deputy Director, Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering, MDOT SHA
Ms. Samantha Biddle, Chief, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division, MDOT SHA
Mr. Tyson Byrne, Regional Planning Manager, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT TSO
Mr. Charles Coppage, Traffic Engineer, District 2, MDOT SHA
Ms. Nora Corasaniti, State and Federal Legislative Analyst, MDOT
Mr. Tom Curtin, State Legislative Officer, MDOT
Carole Delion P.E., Assistant Chief, Travel Forecasting and Analysis Division, MDOT SHA
Mr. Kenny Fender, District Engineer, District 2, MDOT SHA
Mr. Mark Howard, Federal Legislative Manager, MDOT SHA
Mr. Richard Jaramillo, Maryland Transportation Authority – Bay Bridge, MDTA
Mr. Samuel Kahl, State Legislative Liaison, MDOT SHA
Mr. R. Earl Lewis, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Policy, Planning, and Enterprise Services, MDOT
Mr. Glenn McLaughlin, Deputy Director, CHART, MDOT SHA
Mr. Stephen Miller, Regional Planner, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division, MDOT SHA
Anyesha Mookherjee, P.E., Deputy Director, Office of Traffic and Safety, MDOT SHA
Mr. Scot Morrell, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, MDOT SHA
Ms. Heather Murphy, Director, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, MDOT TSO
Ms. Tara Penders, Assistant Chief, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division, MDOT SHA
Mr. James Ports, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Operations, MDOT
Jason A. Ridgway, P.E., Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Planning, Engineering, Real Estate, and Environment, MDOT SHA
Ms. Thomasina Saxon, Administrative Assistant Executive, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division, MDOT SHA
Tim Smith, P.E., Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Operations, MDOT SHA
Mr. Peter Sotherland, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, Regional and Intermodal Planning Division, MDOT SHA
Mr. Jeff Stockdale, Federal Legislative Officer, MDOT
Mr. Jeff Tosi, Director, Office of Government Affairs, MDOT
Cedric Ward, P.E., Director, Office of Traffic and Safety, MDOT SHA
Richard Woo, Ph.D., Director, Office of Policy and Research, MDOT SHA
Mr. Scott Yinger, Chief, Field Operation Division, CHART, MDOT SHA