

Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG)

October 5, 2022

The Honorable Lawrence Hogan, Governor,
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland
21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

The Bay Bridge Reconstruction Advisory Group (BBRAG) extends its most sincere appreciation and thanks to you for supporting the next step in addressing the need to improve congestion and future traffic demand crossing the Chesapeake Bay with the launching of the Bay Crossing Study Tier 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Bay Bridge has been of immense benefit to communities on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay and has only become an even more valuable asset to the State of Maryland since its opening in 1952. As a part of daily life for thousands of Marylanders, the bridge enables vibrant communities throughout the Bay to thrive and delivers essential economic benefits for Maryland's domestic economy. That value is in danger of being eroded as traffic congestion and delay becomes a routine fixture not just during the busy summer weekends, but during the week. Efforts to manage congestion by way of contra-flow will only go so far.

At its quarterly meetings, as BBRAG members, we regularly discuss traffic congestion issues and have voiced our concern that without significant investment in a new Bay crossing, the quality of life for local communities and those stretching all the way to Ocean City will be negatively affected.

The BBRAG actively participated in the Bay Crossing Tier I NEPA study; receiving regular updates from the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA), disseminating news to members' communities, and providing feedback both to the MDTA and to our communities. The BBRAG welcomes the conclusion of the Tier I study and the Record of Decision/Final Environmental Impact Statement and looks forward to continuing our participation in the Bay Crossing Study Tier 2 NEPA effort as part of the federally required NEPA process.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue.