
February 29, 2024

The Honorable Christina Henderson
Chair
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington DC 20002

Dear Chair Henderson:

In response to the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) request for feedback to the responses received during the 2023 open public comment period, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is happy to respond to the projects under review to be included in the technical inputs for the Visualize 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Joint Response – American Legion Bridge and I-270 Corridor Program (formerly OP Lanes Phase 1) with I-270 Innovative Congestion Management

Governor Moore unveiled plans in August 2023 for the American Legion Bridge and I-270 Corridor Program to enhance the Washington Region's access, opportunity, and quality of life. MDOT hosted four open house meetings in November and December of 2023 to engage communities and stakeholders for feedback on potential multimodal solutions for the corridor. There was broad agreement on bike and pedestrian amenity across the Potomac River to connect to existing networks, the need to address the aging, existing bridge, and better bus transit across the river made viable through the use of HOT lanes. MDOT has also listened to the feedback and adjusted the parts of the program without strong support by de-prioritizing work in the Rockville area, focusing on addressing the bridge and I-495, and starting the I-270 north multi-modal study where there is strong support for solutions from Upper Montgomery and Frederick Counties.

The project will replace the 60-year-old American Legion Bridge, which provides a critical freight and passenger connection between Maryland and Virginia and expand transportation options in the corridor to include HOV/transit lanes and bicycle and pedestrian options. Replacing the bridge will bring the asset into a state-of-good-repair and enhance safety and mobility. The new bridge will include expanded bicycle and pedestrian connections between multimodal facilities in Maryland and Virginia, increasing active transportation opportunities and access to recreation. Corridor improvements will support the implementation of new transit connections between Maryland and Virginia and the enhancement of transportation demand management to reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel in the I-495/I-270 corridor.

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MD 28/MD 198 Corridor Study

In 2021, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) completed the MD 28/MD 198 Corridor Improvement Study. The study identified five segments within the corridor that could advance individually and made preliminary recommendations for each. Recommendations are intended to enhance safety and operations and included access roads, new shared use paths, sidewalks, roundabouts, new left turns lanes and medians.

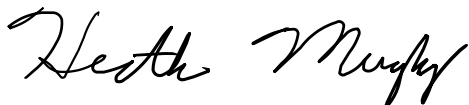
SHA is currently advancing Segment D (MD 198 from Old Columbia Pike to US 29A) through planning. In 2022, the Segment D Preliminary Planning Report was completed, which identified preliminary concepts. SHA is currently working to identify a preferred alternative to obtain environmental approvals so that the project may advance to detailed design.

US 29 Corridor

As part of the development of the Draft FY 2024-2029 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), SHA conducted a review of unfunded Development and Evaluation program projects and removed older corridor-level projects that would need significant reevaluation to advance. As a result of that process, the US 29 corridor project was removed from the draft Montgomery portion of the CTP and also from the technical inputs for the Visualize 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

MDOT remains committed to creating a safe and reliable transportation system that connects the residents of the National Capital Region and the entire State to economic opportunities through all modes of transportation. Thank you again for the comments on the projects included in the Visualize 2050 technical inputs. We appreciate hearing from you. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Kari Snyder MDOT Office of Planning and Capital Programming (OPCP) Regional Planner at 410-865-1305, toll free 888-713-1414 or via e-mail at ksnyder3@mdot.maryland.gov, of course, feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Heather Murphy
Director
Office of Planning and Capital Programming

cc: Ms. Kari Snyder, Regional Planner, OPCP, MDOT