

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of County Commissioners Highlights from Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Westminster, Tuesday March 8, 2016 – The Board of County Commissioners dealt with several transportation issues during today's open session. The Annual Consolidated Transportation Priority letter was presented for review. The letter highlights capacity enhancements for transportation projects in Carroll County. The county's top three priorities are:

- MD 32 (MD 26 south to the Carroll County line) – This request dovetails with Governor Hogan's announcement in January that in addition to widening a nine-mile stretch of MD 32 in Howard County, the state will begin to explore and study the continuation of widening into Carroll County from I-70 to MD 26.
- MD 97 (Bachmans Valley Road to MD 140 in Westminster) – This project has support from the Carroll County Industrial Development Authority and the City of Westminster and provides direct access to the Carroll County Regional Airport and numerous industrial parks.
- MD 26 (MD 32 east to Liberty Reservoir) – This is a long-standing project for the county and provides access to current and future employment centers along the corridor and elsewhere in Carroll County.

The letter also highlights urban reconstruction/streetscaping projects, Transit projects, and bicycle/pedestrian trail projects.

Commissioner Wantz expressed concern that MD 30 is not among the current list of priorities. The Bureau of Comprehensive Planning assured the Commissioner that the area will be able to handle any additional traffic, but affirmed that a county-wide comprehensive plan is needed.

The Commissioners will sign the letter and request endorsement from the County delegation before submitting to the Maryland Department of Transportation.

The Commissioners approved additional funding for the Veterans Shuttle. The additional funds are necessary due to the increased demand for this service.

CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

The Commissioners also approved the FY17 Annual Transportation Grant application. This grant is for operating and capital funding for the public transit program. Several vehicles have reached the end of their useful life in terms of both age and mileage. This request is out of step with the county's budget process as the grant must be submitted to the Maryland Transportation Administration prior to finalization of the county's budget.

On a non-transportation note, the Commissioners heard a request to submit a grant to the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Maryland Department of Natural Resources to measure the effectiveness of the county's current practices in streambank regeneration. County staff noticed that erosion along streambanks had decreased and vegetation was regrowing as a result of changes in their storm water management practices. This project may allow Carroll County to increase their nutrient reduction credits on existing retrofit projects and may become a model for other jurisdictions.

Commissioner Howard opened discussion on communication efforts in the county, stating "One of the most critical things we do is how we communicate with the citizens." He would like to see a more coordinated communications effort throughout all levels of county government. The Commissioners agreed to gather additional information and revisit the topic in two weeks.

To view today's session, please follow this link:

<http://carrollcountymd.ig2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=2339&Format=Agenda>

The Commissioners will not hold an open session on Thursday, March 10, 2016. The Commissioners will be meeting in closed session that date in an extension of their strategic planning retreat.

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