



January 3, 2020

Gregory Slater, Administrator
Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore Maryland 21202

Dear Administrator Slater,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation. As organizations focused on supporting healthy communities, protecting the environment, and improving mobility and access across the state, we are writing to urge you to seize the opportunity, if you are confirmed, to put the state's transportation system on a new, sustainable course. Maryland must invest in the transformation to a 21st century, healthy, equitable, reliable, and safe transportation system.

Maryland Advocates for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) is a coalition of 18 non-profit and community advocacy organizations. We have developed [guiding principles](#) to move the state's transportation system in a new direction that are highlighted in this letter.

Transportation is the leading source of climate-disrupting pollution in Maryland and the primary contributor to premature deaths related to air pollution. Currently, Maryland transportation's system is car-centric. There hasn't been any time in recent history when there were no transit projects in Maryland Transit Administration's pipeline. We need solutions that focus on moving people over moving cars. We ask that you revoke the state's plans to widen any highways, including the Capital Beltway and I-270, and believe the latest version of the P3 proposal scheduled for a vote on January 8th is still unacceptable. Instead you should prioritize comprehensive solutions including:

- Expanding reliable transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Encouraging more transit-oriented land use with affordable housing.
- Investing in a maintenance-first approach to road and bridge infrastructure.
- Applying transportation demand management.
- Ensuring environmental protection to waterways, stream valley parks, and forests while reducing vehicle miles travelled and greenhouse gas emissions.

This approach will allow Maryland to grow without increasing driving, traffic, and pollution.

We ask that MDOT be more transparent and provide information on a regular basis and make it a priority to incorporate regular input from all sectors of the public, particularly overburdened and underserved communities, counties, and municipal governments. We also ask that you make careful consideration of the benefits and potential burdens of any of MDOT's plans on Marylanders, the environment, and the state's financial health.

We urge you to work closely with the Maryland General Assembly to advance this sustainable approach to transportation. We look forward to collaborating with you to support sustainable, accessible, affordable, inclusive, reliable, and equitable transportation solutions to address the climate crisis and transform the ways Marylanders get to their destinations each day. We request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these approaches and thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Josh Tulkin
Director
Maryland Sierra Club

Kit Gage
Advocacy Director
Friends of Sligo Creek

Kimberly Golden Brandt
Director of Smart Growth Maryland
Preservation Maryland

The Advocacy Committee
Greater Greater Washington

Stewart Schwartz
Executive Director
Coalition for Smarter Growth

Pamela E. Goddard
Senior Program Director, Mid-Atlantic
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Denisse Guitarra
MD Conservation Advocate
Audubon Naturalist Society

Joshua Feldmark
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Bike Maryland

Patrick Wojahn
Director of Government Relations
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Samuel Jordan
President
Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition

Ed Rich
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Greater Farmland Civic Association

Richard Willson & Lois Hybl
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Maryland