



Howard County Office of Transportation

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-0702

bgartner@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-1655

TDD 410-313-2323

Howard County FY 2021-2026 Priority Letter Public Input

Survey Results– April 2020

Every year, Howard County updates and submits a "Priority Letter" to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) outlining the County's priorities for state transportation funding and technical assistance in the Maryland Department of Transportation's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP).

The Office of Transportation sponsored an on-line survey as well as holding a public meeting. This document summarizes the results of the survey responses via the online survey and handwritten responses. Information publicizing the survey and the public meeting was located on the Howard County website homepage, on County social media, in email blasts from the County Executive, and direct communication to local and state legislative representatives.

We solicited feedback on transportation priorities and projects from county residents to help guide and inform the update. This year, our summary of the results showed:

- 200 people completed at least part of the online survey, with 43 respondents offering additional written comments.
- Survey responses were received from nearly all Howard County zip codes, with a strong clustering of responses from: 21042, 21043, 21044, 21045.
- 48 people signed in the public meeting and we received 51 comment forms, or letters, at the meeting or shortly thereafter.
- 343 comments were received via email, letters, handwritten comment forms, or in the survey and were categorized by issues and topics.
 - Rivers Edge Access - identified 156 times
 - Noise walls - identified four times
 - Bike/Ped issues, sidewalks & shared use pathways - identified as core issues 10 times
 - Operations and safety issues on MD 99, MD 108, US 40/US 29/Ridge Road - identified 14 times
 - Intersection of 40/29/Ridge Road - identified four times
 - I 70 - identified five times

In the survey, we also requested respondents rank the types of solutions for three transportation modes: motor vehicles, transit and bicycle/pedestrian.

- Under the motor vehicle category, capacity improvements and safety related projects ranked highest comparably at 48% each.
- For the transit category, respondents ranked new local service and improved regional service as their highest priorities at 22% and 25% respectively.
- For the bicycle/pedestrian category, respondents ranked connections to schools and neighborhoods and access to recreation as their highest priorities at 26% and 30% respectively.

This information and feedback are used to guide the update to the letter. The FY 2021-2026 letter reflects public feedback and comment, our conversations with other county departments and recent funding cutbacks by

MDOT. The rankings and projects in the letter also reflect the importance of continuity and persistence, due to the timeframe transportation projects take to plan, fund and develop.