

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

RE: 2018 BUILD Grant Application for I-95/Belvidere Road Interchange

Dear Secretary Chao,

As members of Maryland's Congressional Delegation, we would like to express our support for Cecil County's application for \$25 million of the 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding for the I-95/Belvidere Road Interchange project. This interchange is the County's top transportation and economic development priority. The proposed improvements will facilitate ongoing and planned economic development in this rural Maryland County by attracting major new businesses while addressing the resulting increase in traffic volumes along I-95.

Cecil County's Principio Enterprise Zone is strategically positioned between metropolitan markets including Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C. and New York City. The I-95/Belvidere Road Interchange will provide warehouses and distribution centers crucial, direct, access to the East Coast's ports, airports, and freight hubs. The increased access to employment and manufacturing centers in this region is critical to our nation's global competitiveness.

Fewer than half of Cecil County residents in the workforce actually work in Cecil County. The I-95/Belvidere Road Interchange would stimulate economic growth in this rural county by facilitating the full build-out of the Principio Enterprise Zone and, in turn, spurring further adjacent development. New and existing businesses are expected to create 7,500 jobs as a result, leading to additional tax revenues that can be invested in schools, parks, local infrastructure and other amenities to improve the quality of life for Cecil County residents.

Further, improving Belvidere road access to I-95 will reduce both Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and trip delay, resulting in reduced energy and operational costs which will be attractive to new warehouse, distribution, and manufacturing businesses. The area is located within an EPA 8-hour Ozone non-attainment area and reduced VMT would result in air quality benefits.

Finally, without construction of the I-95 and Belvidere Road interchange, the existing interchange at I-95/MD 222 as well as seven intersections, including the US 40/MD 222 and US 40/MD 272 intersections, will continue to experience increasing congestion. The construction of a new interchange will support the orderly development of targeted planned growth in Cecil County, create jobs in one of the East Coast's rural counties, reduce congestion, provide trucks


crucial direct access to I-95, reduce future maintenance costs on state and local roads, improve safety and reduce crashes.

As such, we respectfully request that Cecil County's application of \$25 million for the I-95/Belvidere Road Interchange project receive full consideration.

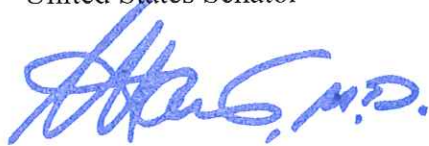
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



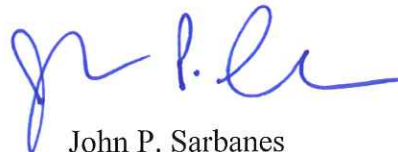
Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



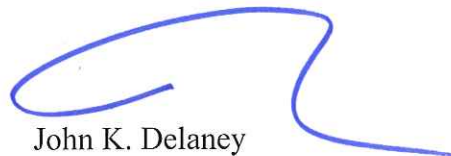
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Jamie B. Raskin
Member of Congress