



ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Richard Madaleno, Chair  
Montgomery County Senate Delegation  
214 James Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Montgomery County House Delegation  
223 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Madaleno and Delegate Feldman:

In light of the Draft FY2011-2016 Consolidated Transportation Program we have updated the State transportation priorities we transmitted to you on July 16, 2008. This letter describes our latest sets of priorities for currently unfunded State transportation projects and studies.

We acknowledge and commend the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for its ongoing support for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority multi-year capital improvement programs for infrastructure investment to maintain a state of good repair and to implement the National Transportation Safety Board recommendations. Additional capital funding beyond the multiyear funding agreement is needed to operate eight-car trains, eliminate the Red Line turnbacks at Grosvenor and Silver Spring, and to expand the existing station platform and circulation capacity to accommodate existing and projected riders.

Two other projects of significance to the County are noteworthy. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) transportation improvements near National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda have been funded for design and land acquisition, but construction funds necessary to complete the improvements are not programmed. Also, the County is currently engaged in a feasibility study of county-wide bus rapid transit (BRT) service. Once the study is complete, we intend to incorporate elements of the countywide study in our master plans to then be in position to have MDOT begin project planning for specific routes in addition to those already underway.

The balance of this letter describes our priorities in several categories.

***I. Projects of regional significance that are in the D&E Program but not in the Construction Program.*** Two major transitways, the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) from Shady Grove to Clarksburg, and the Purple Line from Bethesda to Prince George's County are our highest, and co-equal, priorities. The next priority is to complete the BRAC transportation improvements for the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. Other regionally significant projects with high priority are the widening of I-270 for high-occupancy-toll (HOT) or high-occupancy-vehicle (HOV) lanes north of Shady Grove and the widening of I-495 for HOT or HOV lanes between the I-270 West Spur and Virginia. While there are issues to be worked out on important aspects of some of these priorities, decisions must be made and funding must be identified promptly to move them forward to completion.

**III. Transit projects that are not in the D&E Program.** As noted above, the County has programmed sufficient funds for MDOT to conduct preliminary engineering studies for the Veirs Mill Road BRT and the Georgia Avenue Busway. MOUs are being finalized and these studies should appear in the D&E Program of the Draft FY12-17 CTP. The County has also programmed funds for a project planning study of a pedestrian underpass beneath Georgia Avenue at the Forest Glen Metro Station.

Our priority in this category is to fund corridors proposed by our Countywide BRT Study and subsequent master plan amendments. These corridors may include, but are not limited to: US 29, MD 355, MD 650, the North Bethesda Transitway, and MD 193. Furthermore, as we move forward on this project, we seek support for interim steps to give higher priority for buses on State roads throughout the County.

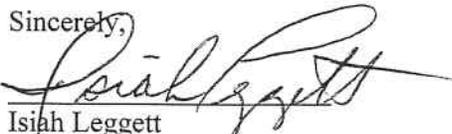
**IV. Highway and bikeway projects that are not in the D&E Program.** Our priority rankings for highway and bikeway projects to be added to the D&E Program are:

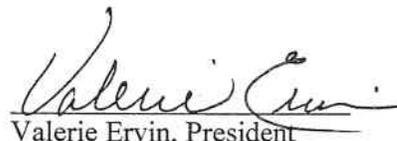
- 1<sup>st</sup> Frederick Road (MD 355)/Gude Drive: grade-separated interchange
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Midcounty Highway Extended: construction from Intercounty Connector to Shady Grove Road
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Intercounty Connector Hiker-Biker Trail: Shady Grove to Prince George's County
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sam Eig Highway: grade-separated interchanges from I-270 to Great Seneca Highway (MD 119); and grade-separated interchange at Great Seneca Highway and Muddy Branch Road
- 5<sup>th</sup> Frederick Road (MD 355): widening from 2000' south of Brink Road to future Frederick Road/Clarksburg Bypass
- 6<sup>th</sup> Rockville Pike (MD 355): improvement from Woodmont Avenue to I-495, including a grade separated interchange at Cedar Lane
- 7<sup>th</sup> Veirs Mill Road (MD 586)/Randolph Road: grade-separated interchange
- 8<sup>th</sup> Veirs Mill Road (MD 586): widening from Twinbrook Parkway to Randolph Road
- 9<sup>th</sup> Frederick Road (MD 355): reconstruction north of Old Town Gaithersburg
- 10<sup>th</sup> I-270/Gude Drive: grade-separated interchange
- 11<sup>th</sup> MD 108 Bypass around Laytonsville

**V. Other comments.** We appreciate your acceptance of the White Flint Sector Plan area as the State's first Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Area (BPPA). We will work with you to coordinate an implementation plan that will time the State's bicycle and pedestrian facility investments so they are coordinated with White Flint's staging plan.

We also appreciate your having accepted the Wheaton, Twinbrook, and Shady Grove Metro Station areas as transit-oriented development (TOD)-designated areas under Section 7-102 of the Maryland Code. We now nominate the White Flint Metro Station vicinity as a fourth area to be granted TOD status, but with the understanding that capital projects in any of these areas do not supersede the priorities listed above. Maps describing these areas are enclosed.

If you need any clarifications about our recommendations, please contact us.

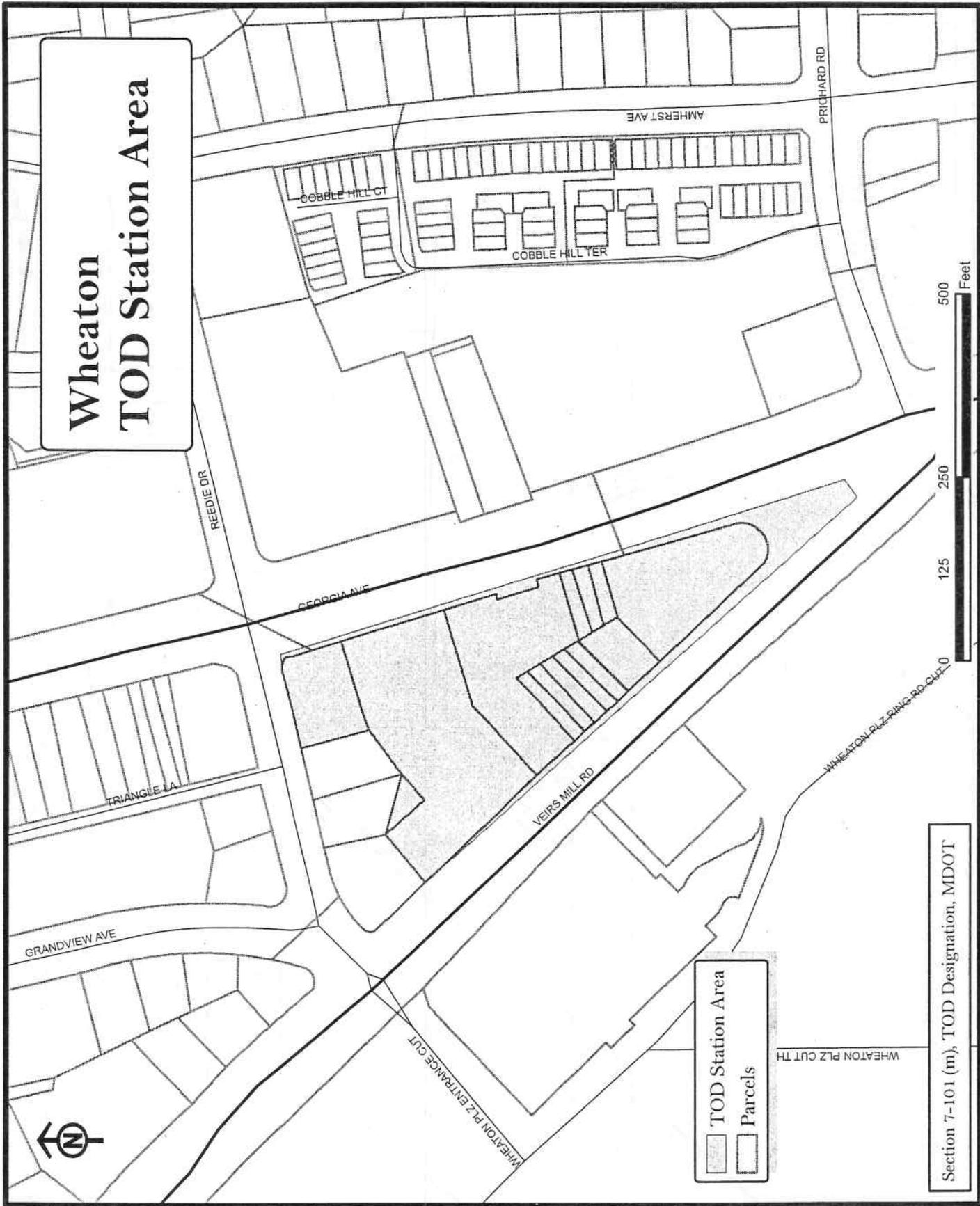
Sincerely,  
  
Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

  
Valerie Ervin, President  
County Council

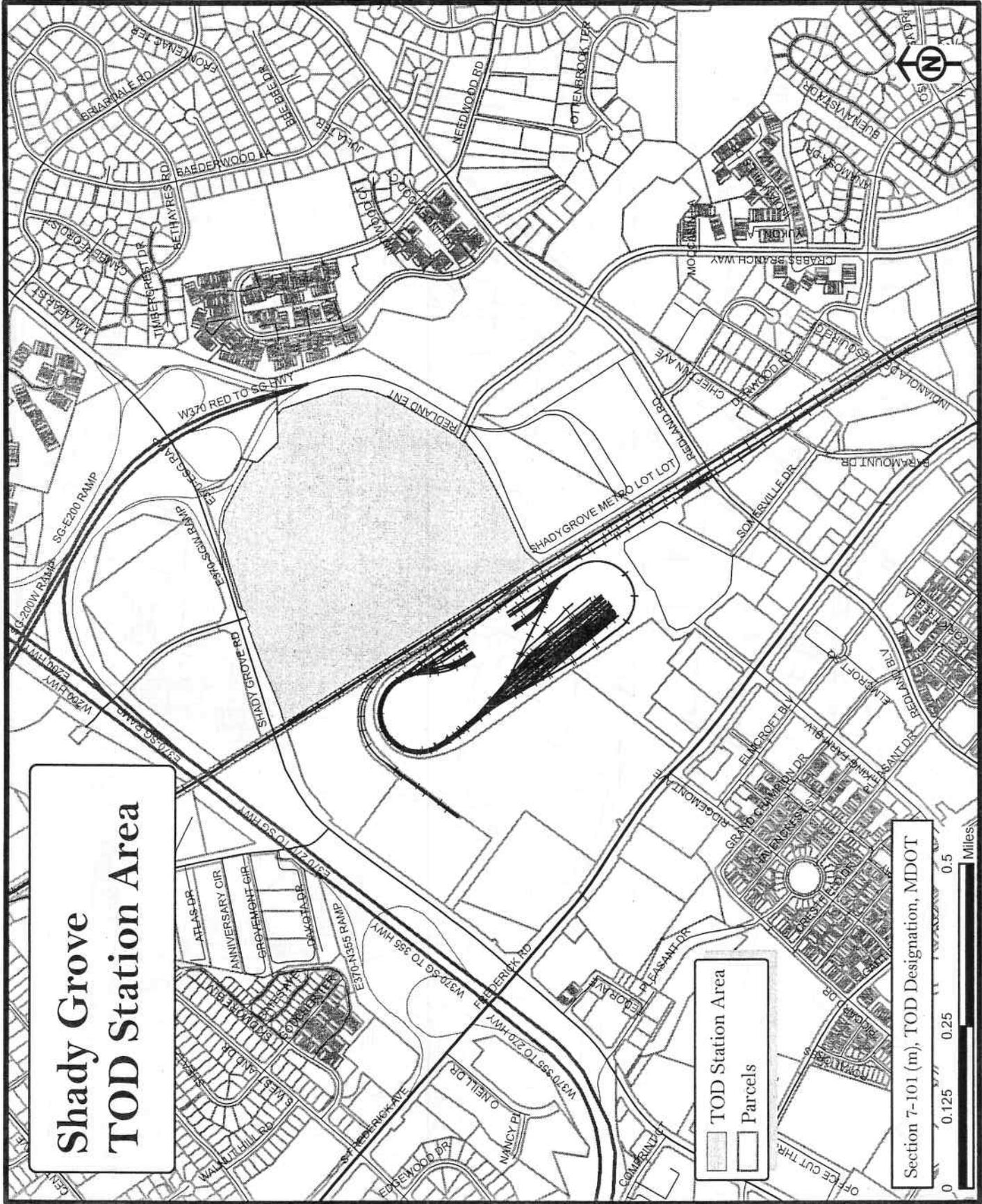
Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor, State of Maryland  
Beverly Swaim-Staley, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Françoise Carrier, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board

# Wheaton TOD Station Area



Section 7-101 (m), TOD Designation, MDOT



# Shady Grove TOD Station Area

TOD Station Area  
 Parcels

Section 7-101 (m), TOD Designation, MDOT  
 0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles