



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor

Robert L. Flanagan, Secretary
Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator

Maryland Department of Transportation

November 8, 2006

Mr. David Daddio

College Park, Maryland 20740

Dear Mr. Daddio:

Thank you for your comments and interest in the University of Maryland (UM) Connector Study. Your name has been added to the project mailing list, so that you will be notified of future project activities. The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), working together with local, state, and federal agencies, will evaluate alternatives to address the transportation needs from the I-95/I-495 interchange to the University of Maryland Campus and the surrounding area. Mr. David Buck from SHA's Office of Communications forwarded me your comments.

The UM Connector Study is just beginning and is separate from previous studies. It is being conducted as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The NEPA process includes three stages: project scoping, detailed studies, and decision-making. The SHA is just beginning the project scoping phase, during which the Purpose and Need statement, which justifies and defines the reason for the project, will be developed. Once the Purpose and Need statement is concurred upon by the state and federal agencies, a full range of alternatives that could meet the Purpose and Need will be considered.

During later stages of the project, detailed engineering and environmental (natural and human) studies will be conducted to evaluate the benefits, impacts, and costs of the alternatives. Throughout the process, no-build is always an option and is also used to compare the benefits and impacts of alternative solutions. The SHA strongly believes that it is critical for public stakeholders to be involved during every stage of the project.

My telephone number/toll-free number is _____

Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1.800.735.2258 Statewide Toll Free

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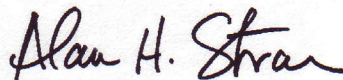
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Many studies have been conducted for transportation initiatives in and around the College Park area. In addition to the two connector studies you mentioned, the 1999 University of Maryland Feasibility Study and the 2003 University of Maryland Transit Connector, the SHA has recently completed a study of improvements to US 1 between the Capital Beltway and College Avenue. The University of Maryland has also conducted its own studies, including the University of Maryland Transportation Initiative, based on its goal of reducing the number of automobiles, eliminating vehicular congestion, and promoting a more pedestrian friendly campus. The 21st Legislative District Delegation launched an initiative called the Route One Task Force in 2003 to address short-term, low cost ways to improve the safety and function of US 1 and longer term options to improve the roadway from Laurel to College Park. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission continues to update its five master plans for the College Park area.

Thank you again for your email. If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Mr. Alan Straus, Project Manager, at 410-545-8524, toll-free at 800-548-5026, or via email at astraus@sha.state.md.us. SHA will be pleased to assist you.

Very truly yours,

Bruce Grey
Deputy Director
Office of Planning and
Preliminary Engineering



By:

Alan H. Straus
Project Manager
Project Planning Division