



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 5, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 2059

Dear President Biden and Secretary Buttigieg;

I write today regarding the acting federal highway administrator's apparent decision to delay the State of Maryland's Traffic Relief Plan to build a new American Legion Bridge, alleviate traffic on the Capital Beltway and I-270, and provide more transit services for the region.

You pledged to support the states' most critical infrastructure projects to create jobs and improve the quality of life in our communities. I united governors from both parties around an infrastructure plan, and held a summit in Annapolis to help pass the bipartisan infrastructure law.

But now we have learned that the acting federal highway administrator plans to further delay Maryland's transformative Traffic Relief Plan. We were completely blindsided by this action, particularly given that every comprehensive analysis we submitted had already been reviewed and approved by the agency. In fact, only a few weeks ago, the agency's professional experts praised our study as a model for other states. This is just the latest example of how the acting administrator is undermining the law and longstanding practices that govern the approval of critical state projects. We cannot stand for this irresponsible and incompetent federal overreach.

Knowing of your commitment to advancing the most critical infrastructure projects, I am calling on you to reverse this acting administrator's rogue decision and to fulfill the agency's commitments. If action is not taken to immediately rectify this improper decision, we are prepared to use every tool at our disposal—up to and including legal action. While we do not want it to come to that, these reckless and apparently politically-motivated actions may leave us with no other choice.

We have already had to contend with two years of unwarranted federal delays hamstringing our work to deliver this critical project for Marylanders. These delays have increased the cost of the project by more than 20% amid unprecedented inflation, supply chain issues, labor shortages,

and interest rate increases, potentially costing Maryland taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. As a result, I have directed state transportation officials to initiate the process of applying for a federal bridge grant to mitigate these federally-driven cost increases.

This has been called the most important and transformative transportation project for the National Capital Region in the last 50 years, and with so many Marylanders still stuck in soul-crushing traffic, we are not going to let politics delay it any further.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor

CC:

Mitch Landrieu, Senior Advisor to the President and Infrastructure Coordinator
Christine Harada, Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
Senator Tom Carper, Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senator Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works
Representative Peter DeFazio, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Representative Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Kathleen Marshall, Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House
Will Rasky, Governmental Affairs, USDOT