



June 21, 2022

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Subject: Chesapeake Bay Bridge Expansion

Dear Governor Hogan:

Earlier this month, you announced the next phase of the federal review process for a new Chesapeake Bay crossing at the site of the existing Bay Bridge spans. I encourage you and your team at the Maryland Department of Transportation to consider complementary public transit options.

First, the region is growing. Queen Anne's County's population grew by nearly seven percent over the past decade. Anne Arundel County grew nearly 10 percent, while Howard County expanded by a remarkable 16 percent. A bridge that is built with the sole intent of moving more vehicles – rather than more people – will be functionally obsolete on the day it opens.

Second, given climate impact in the Chesapeake region – including the threat of sea level rise that presents an existential risk to communities on both sides of the Bay – we must consider modern, innovative public transportation options as part of our technology solutions for the future. While it is too late to undo some of the most regrettable growth management choices such as allowing the Four Seasons project to be constructed right in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, we can use this study to promote a far more visionary and environmentally sustainable approach to transportation.

Finally, our experience with public transportation along the Bay Bridge/U.S. 50 corridor suggests there is demand for expanded fixed route transit options. For example, the Maryland Transit Administration commuter buses which connect riders on Kent Island with Washington, D.C. continue to operate at peak capacity. The state could adopt an incremental approach by beginning with dedicated bus lanes or even Bus Rapid Transit, followed by the eventual construction of light or heavy rail – if and when there is a permanent ridership base. Given the long-term need for expanded transit options between Baltimore, Washington, and Annapolis, the eventual integration of rail into the Bay crossing plan would be a major catalyst for connecting our entire state.

I look forward to working with you and your successor as we build an unparalleled vision for the region and the state.

Sincerely,

R. David Harden
Candidate for Congress
First District of Maryland

PO Box 491, Stevensville, MD 21666
www.hardenforcongress.com