

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 20, 2019

The Honorable Pete K. Rahn
Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation
Chairman, Maryland Transportation Authority
2310 Broening Highway
Baltimore, MD 21224

Dear Chairman Rahn,

As you and the other Board members of the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) prepare for your next board meeting on November 21, 2019, we write to express our interest in working with you on a replacement alternative for the Governor Harry W. Nice Memorial/Senator Thomas "Mac" Middleton Bridge that includes a bike/pedestrian path.

The Nice Bridge is vital to the economy of Charles County, Southern Maryland, the State and the Nation and having protected bike/pedestrian access on the Nice Bridge has long been a goal of members of the Maryland Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Charles County Commissioners. By including a protected bike/pedestrian path into the design of the replacement bridge, the MDTA would be supporting additional recreational tourism in Charles County for generations.

We hope to partner with you to identify funding opportunities from federal programs that could provide resources toward the project such as the formula funding the State receives from the Federal Highway Administration's Federal-aid Highway Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program.

As the FAST Act's authorization comes to an end, we worked with our colleagues on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to produce a bill, S.2302, America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA). Section 1119 of ATIA, the Bridge Investment Program, establishes a grant program to assist in the rehabilitation or replacement of structurally deficient bridges. Once the bill becomes law we look forward to providing additional support to this and other programs that support our nation's infrastructure through the Appropriations process.

We are glad that the decision was made to replace the existing structure and look forward to working with you and the Board on a plan that includes a protected bicycle and pedestrian lane.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

cc: James F. Ports, Jr, Executive Director, Maryland Transportation Authority
Tom Curtin, Chief of Staff, Maryland Department of Transportation