



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

April 20, 2018

Pete K. Rahn, Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076

Dear Pete,

When I laid out our administration's vision to provide real and lasting traffic relief to the National Capital Region – the most congested region in the nation – I made it clear that I wanted to bring the most relief to the most Marylanders as quickly as possible. I appreciate your efforts to get this project moving. Widening I-270, I-495, and MD-295 will have a truly transformative impact on the tens of thousands of Marylanders who sit in traffic every day along the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

As you know, MDOT leveraged a waiver process made possible by procurement reform legislation passed unanimously in both houses of the Maryland General Assembly in 2017, which built upon legislation governing the use of Public Private Partnerships passed under the previous administration. I understand this expedited procurement was simply for a consulting contract to get the ball rolling while the department meets with stakeholders, holds public hearings, and does its due diligence in preparation for the larger procurement for the P3 construction contract.

Creating a more flexible and efficient procurement process to allow transformative projects like this to move forward in a timely manner is a shared goal of our administration, the previous administration, and the legislature.

However, a focus on speed cannot and should not ever come at the expense of the full and complete transparency that the taxpayers of Maryland expect and deserve. From day one, our administration has been committed to achieving the highest possible level of transparency. I am not satisfied that our threshold for transparency has been met in this case. However unintentionally, the department's communications with the state's chief fiscal officers on the Board of Public Works, upon which I sit, as well as the public, have lacked the clarity needed to ensure full faith in this process.

The questions that have been raised by the Board of Public Works regarding this never-before-used process necessitates that the department pursue a new procurement. As this new procurement moves forward, I am directing MDOT to work closely with the members of the Board of Public Works, including the board's procurement advisor, along with legislative leaders and all relevant stakeholders.

Let me be clear – we must and will get this project done to bring traffic relief to our citizens. I thank you for your work to get Maryland moving again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Hogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Larry Hogan
Governor