



County Executive John R. Leopold
P.O. Box 2700, Annapolis, MD 21404

December 18, 2008

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor and Chairman, BRAC Sub Cabinet
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Dear Lieutenant Governor Brown:

Anne Arundel County and the Fort Meade Region are facing unprecedented growth from expanding and relocating military missions, as determined by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) in 2005. We are actively preparing to welcome these expanded activities. However, as you are well aware, there remain significant funding issues related to the required transportation improvements.

Recognizing that the vital intelligence missions currently operating in the Fort Meade area, as well as the new and expanded agencies to be relocated there, must have the transportation infrastructure necessary to function efficiently and effectively, I am contacting you to offer my full support for your efforts to secure the funds needed to meet this challenge. Specifically, the anticipated federal economic stimulus package should explicitly provide a dedicated fund to support BRAC infrastructure improvements, in both the planning and construction phases. This fund will ensure the success of the massive investment in military facilities at Fort Meade, provide the necessary transportation infrastructure for safe and efficient access to and around Fort Meade as well as provide for both near and intermediate term employment opportunities for the region's work force.

Providing for the eligibility of these improvements in the federal economic stimulus package will help ensure that State and local BRAC transportation components can be coordinated with the plans of the National Security Agency and Fort Meade for the movement of personnel within their security perimeters. Since many of BRAC project plans are not scheduled for completion within the anticipated eligibility window of the stimulus package, the dedicated fund is critical to making the economic stimulus package beneficial to our BRAC needs. We will join in your efforts to work with Maryland's congressional delegation to ensure that the key BRAC infrastructure improvements can meet the criteria for inclusion in the proposed federal legislation. Drawing from the Fort Meade Regional Transportation Priorities that were submitted to

the BRAC Sub Cabinet, projects which should qualify for inclusion in the federal economic stimulus package include:

1. Projects associated with the expansion of MD 175 from MD 170 to MD 295, Anne Arundel County's and Fort Meade's top transportation priority outside the gates of Fort Meade.

- a. Construction of a five lane roadway from the intersection of MD 175/MD 295 to Ridge-Rockenbach Rd. Private developers have completed the design and construction documents sufficient for State Highway access permits; however, due to the economic down turn, the private roadway construction is no longer viable. State and Federal funding to accelerate construction of this segment of MD 175 would provide vastly improved access to the Fort Meade Rockenbach Road gate as well as relieve congestion on other segments of MD 175. Construction cost is estimated to be \$6M.

- b. BRAC Intersection Projects

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) MD 175/Clark Rd | (2) MD 175/Ridge-Rockenbach Rd |
| (3) MD 175/Disney Rd | (4) MD 175/Reece Rd |
| (5) MD 175/Mapes Rd | (6) MD 174 (Reece)/Severn |

The six BRAC Intersection Projects were initially included in the draft Consolidated Transportation Plan at a funding level of \$47.9M. However, due to economic conditions, the funding has been decreased by \$16.3M to \$31.6M. The design of these key intersections should be accelerated to ensure their qualification for stimulus consideration.

2. Purchase of the sixteen (16) medium duty, low floor truck buses using a combination of Federal/State/Local funds (80/10/10) with the Federal funds coming from FTA Section 5309 funding (Bus and Bus Facilities). Current price based on MTA bid for vehicles is \$180,000 per copy or \$2.88 M with Section 5309 (\$2.304 M Federal), \$288,000 (State) and \$288,000 (Local) This assumes purchase of four vehicles per year over four years. This project will result in employment opportunities of drivers, maintenance, and service employees that will be immediate and long lasting.
3. Operating costs for eight (8) routes. Traditionally operating costs are borne by State and local sources, but it would be possible to use Jobs Access/Reverse Commute (JARC, Section 5316) funds for this purpose. The following estimates of \$6.25 Million annually of which at least 50 percent would be state or Federal funds (\$3.125 Million), 20 percent from fare box (\$1.25 Million) and the balance from local funds \$1.875 Million). This would equate to approximately 75,700 annual hours of service spread across eight routes. This project will result in employment opportunities for drivers, maintenance and service employees that will be immediate and long lasting.

4. Restore construction funding of \$6.8M to the Locally Operated Transit System (LOTS) in order to improve and add as appropriate strategically located park and ride lots to serve as focal points for bus service to serve Fort Meade, the National Security Agency, and the Enhanced Use Lease office complex.

Additionally, it is my understanding that in keeping with Executive Order 12788, Executive Federal agencies can give priority consideration to requests from Defense-affected communities for Federal assistance to meet the special requirements generated by BRAC 2005. The creation of infrastructure monies, either in an economic stimulus package, EO 12788, the FY 2010 Transportation Appropriations Bill, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill (SAFETEA) or other mechanisms is vital to the successful implementation of BRAC 2005.

Congress should ensure that key BRAC Projects benefit from the proposed economic stimulus package. While some BRAC infrastructure projects may not be exactly "shovel ready," ongoing reductions in state funding are slowing down the process to the point where needed infrastructure will not be in place in a timely manner to provide quick and easy access to the national intelligence and information technology combat support organizations located at Fort Meade.

Thank you for your continuing support and advocacy for the needs of the Fort Meade Region.

Sincerely,



JOHN R. LEOPOLD
County Executive

cc: The Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin
The Hon. Barbara A. Mikulski
The Hon. Frank M. Kratovil, Jr.
The Hon. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
The Hon. John Sarbanes
The Hon. Donna F. Edwards
The Hon. Steny H. Hoyer
The Hon. Roscoe G. Bartlett, Jr.
The Hon. Elijah E. Cummings
The Hon. Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.
The Hon. Michael E. Busch
The Hon. James E. DeGrange, Sr.,
The Hon. John C. Astle
The Hon. Mary Ann Love
The Hon. John D. Pocari