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Derick Berlage, AICP
Acting Deputy Planning Director
Prince George’s County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro MD 20772

**Preliminary Bowie-Mitchellville
& Vicinity Master Plan
EXHIBIT 20**

Dear Mr. Berlage:

Thank you for providing the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) the opportunity to comment on the draft 2021 Preliminary Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan. MDOT SHA looks forward to continuing to work with the Prince George’s County Planning Department to develop and implement transportation infrastructure to support the vision outlined in the plan for the accommodation of future growth and development in the Bowie-Mitchellville area. MDOT SHA submits the following comments regarding the plan as it relates to transportation.

General

- MDOT SHA supports the draft plan’s focus on facilitating transit use, improving bicycle and pedestrian accessibility and facility connectivity, and promoting transit-oriented development. In general, the vision and recommendations proposed in the plan are supported by MDOT SHA’s commitment to provide transportation facilities that accommodate all users of all modes. This emphasis led MDOT SHA to develop Context Driven – Access & Mobility for All Users, a planning and design resource including guidance centered on establishing safe and effective multimodal transportation systems. For additional information, please visit <https://www.roads.maryland.gov/contextdriven/>.

Pedestrians and Bicycles

- p. 29 – The plan calls for the transformation of the segment of MD 450 (Annapolis Road) in front of the Free State Shopping Center and Bowie Marketplace into a more pedestrian-friendly environment with a strong sense of place. This segment of MD 450 is located within the limits of a project listed in MDOT’s Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) that proposes to upgrade and widen MD 450 from MD 3 to Stonybrook Drive. Proposed improvements include a 4-lane divided closed-section roadway, a landscaped median, and improved crosswalks at signalized intersections with ADA

curb ramps. MDOT SHA placed design on hold in 2004 pending the identification of funding to complete design and subsequent phases. However, MDOT SHA will continue to look to identify opportunities to fund design activities as resources allow.

The MDOT SHA also will continue to work with Prince George's County and the City of Bowie, which has asked MDOT SHA to reexamine designs for the "Bowie Mainstreet" segment of MD 450, between Stonybrook Drive and Race Track Road as design practices have evolved since MDOT SHA's design efforts went on hold in 2004. When resources are identified to reexamine MDOT SHA's existing MD 450 design, MDOT SHA will do so through the lens of *Context Driven*, which will lead to a design and project that addresses the needs of all users and reinforces Bowie's desire to realize the Bowie Mainstreet concept.

- p. 36 – MDOT SHA supports the vision outlined in the draft plan to make MD 197 between US 50 and US 301 the spine of an area that is designated in the draft plan as a Bowie local town center. Currently, MDOT SHA is not programming improvements in this segment of MD 197. However, this section of MD 197 is a closed-section roadway with a landscaped median, sidewalks, and crosswalks, which can contribute to the creation of a town center environment for users. As the corridor continues to develop, MDOT SHA will coordinate potential improvements with Prince George's County and the City of Bowie to enhance the corridor and create a corridor that serves all users.
- p. 37 – MDOT SHA supports the vision outlined in the draft plan to encourage transit-oriented development (TOD) anchored by Bowie State University and Bowie State MARC Station. Although there are no planned or programmed projects in the MD 197 corridor near Bowie State University, MDOT SHA will continue to work with Prince George's County, the City of Bowie, and Bowie State University to identify ways to provide appropriate roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian accommodations for all users and that also support TOD.

Roadways and Streets

- p. 31 – MDOT SHA's planning efforts support the draft plan's intent to transform US 301 through Bowie into a limited access freeway to address congestion in the corridor. The segment of US 301 in the draft plan's study area is the focus of multiple MDOT SHA planning efforts including the US 301 South Corridor Transportation Study and the US 301/MD 197 Upgrade/Widening project. The US 301/MD 197 Upgrade/Widening project, which is a breakout project of the larger US 301 South Corridor Transportation Study and design of which was placed on hold in 2008, proposed to reconstruct US 301 as a six-lane access-controlled freeway on the existing US 301 alignment, construct a grade-separated interchange at MD 197, and upgrade the local roadway network to ensure continued connectivity to both the east and west sides of US 301. MDOT SHA recognizes the importance of these projects to providing congestion relief to motorists in the Bowie area and will continue to look to identify resources with which to advance design.

Derick Berlage, AICP
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Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2021 Preliminary Bowie-Mitchellville and Vicinity Master Plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. David Rodgers, MDOT SHA Regional Planner, at 410-545-5670 or via email at drodgers1@mdot.maryland.gov. Mr. Rodgers will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Baker
Chief
Regional and Intermodal Planning Division (RIPD)

cc: Mr. Thomas Lester, III, Planner Coordinator, Community Planning Division, Prince
George's County Planning Department
Mr. David Rodgers, Regional Planner, RIPD, MDOT SHA