



## Transportation Listening Session

### Panel:

#### **David Rogers – Regional Planner, Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA)**

*Synopsis: The state currently has a corridor study in the design and construction phases for Route 301 is currently which is awaiting additional funding. Currently there are no formal projects proposed for roadways within the Town of La Plata. \$50 million in funding is allocated towards the Smart Signals program, some of which may be able to be put towards program expansion to La Plata. There needs to be increased interaction and discussion with the State Highway District 5 to promote and implement projects. The Town needs an overarching vision of what MD-301 needs to be.*

#### **Jeff Barnett – Chief of Transit, Charles County Government**

*Synopsis: The County is in the final stages of a Five Year Transit Plan which discusses the additional of another route for VanGo and increasing frequency of service. Door to Door service will be increasing due to the addition of the new dialysis center at 6700 Crain Highway in the Town. This level of service costs roughly \$20,000 per person and is a significant portion of the funding. Working with the Public Service commission there are plans to add taxi cab services through the silver cab and yellow cab in and around the Town.*

#### **Jason Groth – Director of Planning, Charles County Government**

*Synopsis: The County in in the beginning phases of trying to bring (SMRT) light rail from Prince George's County down to Demar Road in White Plains. If the plans were to start today (8/29/2018) it would take 10-15 years to be constructed.*

#### **Bobby Stahl – Director of Operations, Town of La Plata**

*Synopsis: There are financial issues in transportation (Transportation Trust Fund). Funding formula changed following the 2008 economic decline. Currently receiving \$300,000 in transportation funds. Road maintenance takes up vast majority of funds.*

#### **Jeremy Hurlbutt – Director of Planning, Town of La Plata**

*Synopsis: Heritage Green Parkway is an example of necessary interaction between the county, state and Town administration.*

## **Public Questions & Comments:**

[Q = Question, A= Answer, C = Comment, R = Response(s)]

- **(Q) Norris: Does La Plata still have the CSX railroad?**  
(A) Bobby Stahl: *No. Permit has been canceled due to inactivity. Further progress would mimic a "Bridge to Nowhere" scenario. CSX would most likely need to see progress in infrastructure to resume/renew permit.*
- **(Q) Greer: Is there any planning being done in anticipation of the Harry Nice Bridge?**  
(A) *The impact on the Town is "negligible". Synchronization with traffic lights from the state's "Smart Signals" projects. \$50 million is allocated towards this program, some funds may be available for use in La Plata. Currently asking the SHA for a widening of MD-301 down through White Plains (3 lanes) and the bridge (2 lanes) acting as receiving lanes.*
- **(Q) Goldsmith: There are currently two mean of ingress/egress in the Agricopia and Hickory Ridge neighborhoods. Why are there still bollards in place separating the communities?**  
(A) *There is a grade differential and the water connection did not take place. In order to make this connection we would need approval from 85% of the residents in Agricopia.*
- **(C) Murray: I believe there is a need to connect parking lots. Follow the philosophy of drive and park once.**  
(R) *Parking garage opportunity through a partnership with county and town.*
- **(C) Pellegrino: Post-tornado streetscape?**  
(R) *The Town is currently working with the SHA.*
- **(C) Groth: Connections are vital. Locals need to find a way to get around the Town.**
- **(Q) Simpson: Will they [the county/state] focus on Heavy Rail (HRT) versus Light Rail (LRT)?**  
(A) *According to MARC lines study, it [HRT] would add approximately 45 minutes' time. We could propose a hybrid 66 ROW, as HRT would be too expensive to continue.*
- **(Q) Mears: Will the Comprehensive Plan address autonomous vehicles?**  
(A) *Autonomous vehicles will be a part of the County's Transportation Development Plan (TDP) in the next 5+ years. VanGo will look into autonomous bus services.*
- **(Q) Burgess: Is some of the traffic in La Plata generated by travelers coming in and out of Virginia? If so, how much?**  
(A) *According to an origin and destination study, in 2011, there were 58,000 cars coming in and out from Waldorf, 36,000 from La Plata, and 22,000 from the bridge.*
- **(C) Goldsmith: The VANGO moved from Walmart parking lot to Park-N-Ride, so far this has been good.**  
(R) *There are security cameras and police presence at the park-n-ride to improve safety.*
- **(Q) Mears: What are the Town's measures for crossings for people with disabilities?**  
(A) *The state allocates funds towards ADA compliance. Working on better provisions for the disabled (depicted crosswalks, audible crosswalks, etc.) All county and state roads share*

*responsibility to update pedestrian crosswalks. There is a need to coordinate. MD-301 funds are allocated towards ADA compliance. District needs to evaluate where problem areas are.*

- **(Q) When are the culverts in Quailwood going to be fixed?**  
(R) There are currently no plans to fix these culverts, but the Town will look into this.
- **(C) Sue Greer: *I am pleased to see east/west connections. There needs to be more connections and infrastructure for technology. This should be added to the Comprehensive Plan. Emphasize the need for public/private partnerships***  
(R) There needs to be more regional connectivity.