

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

ROGER L. LAYTON
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JOHN W. COLE
PRESIDENT

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ROADS BOARD CHAIR

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

RICHARD P. BARTON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

ERNEST A. CROFOOT
COUNTY ATTORNEY

February 16, 2010

Neil Pedersen, Administrator
State Highway Administration
Office of the Administrator
707 North Calvert Street, C-400
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

Pursuant to § 8-304 of the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the County Commissioners of Caroline County, Maryland (the "County"), a body corporate and politic and a political subdivision of the State of Maryland ("State") hereby requests that the State Highway Administration ("SHA") take over all of the County's rights title, interests, and responsibilities in, to, and for all County roads including, but not limited to, the responsibility for the maintenance, repair, clearing, and improvement of the same.

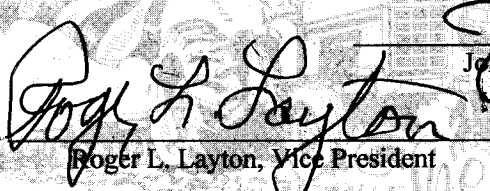
This most serious request is occasioned in particular by the State's unilateral reduction, by 95%, of the County's statutory, formulaic distributions of Highway User Revenues. The County has, at all times, generally been willing to suffer, and has suffered, reductions in revenues due to economic circumstances such as falling property values, income tax receipts, and local fees. However, the "grab" by the State of distributions rightfully payable to the County in order to balance the State's own budget, has merely resulted in a pass down of yet another unfunded mandate (and has exposed the counties and municipalities to scathing criticism during our most recent emergencies, including from certain State officials who have approved or encouraged the taking of distributive shares).

The system of funding county and municipal roads through a mix of Highway User Revenues and local tax dollars has been in place for some time and has worked well. It is now a thing of the past. Without our reasonable share of Highway User Revenues, the County would prefer to have the State be responsible for the roads, as it is responsible for the revenue loss to the County.

We would be pleased to meet with SHA at its convenience to discuss the orderly transfer of the roads.

Sincerely,

County Commissioners of Caroline County, Maryland


Roger L. Layton, Vice President


John W. Cole, President


Jefferson L. Ghrist, Commissioner

Courthouse
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