

# MONONGALIA COUNTY COMMISSION

243 HIGH STREET, ROOM 202  
COURTHOUSE  
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 26505

Tom Bloom, Commissioner  
Edward A. Hawkins, Commissioner  
Sean P. Sikora, Commissioner



Telephone: 304 291-7257

November 15, 2017

The Honorable Thomas J. Smith, P.E.  
Secretary of Transportation  
Commissioner of Highways  
State Capitol Complex, Building 5  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Secretary Smith:

Congratulations on the passage of the Roads to Prosperity Amendment of 2017! We were extremely pleased to see the voters of West Virginia embrace the vision for increasing investments in our State's road and bridge infrastructure. It was particularly gratifying to witness the overwhelming support from the voters of Monongalia County for this plan. As you know, both Monongalia County and the West Virginia Division of Highways ("WVDOH") have greatly benefited from working closely together with our representatives in the State Legislature, the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization, and countless others. Nowhere was this collaboration more evident than with the innovative and successful partnership between Monongalia County, WVDOH, and related entities to plan, design, and construct the new University Town Centre interchange at Exit 153 of Interstate 79.

With the passage of the road bond now behind us, we understand that consensus on the various projects funded by this initiative is critical since time is of the essence. We, the undersigned County Commissioners of Monongalia County, unanimously support the projects identified for Monongalia County and are encouraged that collaborative efforts among stakeholders has and will continue. We also support the ongoing discussions among local, state, and federal highway stakeholders concerning the related, but separate, Traffic Studies of the I-79 Corridor (e.g. Exit 155) and the Northern Bypass (e.g. Exit 157) connector. Moreover, we fully support these proposed collaborative efforts, especially the portions to be led by local stakeholders and the leadership in District 4. These efforts will build upon the already proven partnership between state and local leaders alongside WVDOH and further hope that it will provide a model for other areas of the State to follow.

As always, we stand ready to work with you and your team on these important investments in Monongalia County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward A. Hawkins".

Edward A. Hawkins  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Bloom".

Thomas C. Bloom  
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean P. Sikora".

Sean P. Sikora  
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Jim Justice  
Governor of West Virginia