

# ALAN E. PISARSKI

TO SECRETARY RAHN, MARYLAND DOT

April 7, 2017

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to tell what a great experience it was to work with your people on the I-270 improvement project. There are several reasons:

- The improvement project concept is superb; challenging the qualified traffic engineering leaders from around the country and the world to do their best in terms of improving flow, improving safety while protecting the environment, on the State's most heavily traveled facility for a fixed amount of funding brought out their best. The high caliber of the qualified proposers was clear. I very much believe that the proposers to the Agency vetted every modern technique seriously available today to better serve users of a high level facility such as 270. They were competing on innovativeness, experience and competence, not just pricing the same-old, same-old. The responses were uniformly well informed and thoughtful. The people of Maryland certainly got their money's worth. Aside from the winning proposal there are many thoughtful ideas here, with supporting analyses and calculations, which will bear fruit in the coming years. This is a model for other states.
- Your people were excellent. I was immensely impressed by the quality, the knowledge and just plain good judgment exhibited by your staff. I honestly didn't think that any State DOT could assemble that many really talented and dedicated people in one room on a common challenge. I learned a lesson that makes me hopeful about other state highway administrations. The idea of "outsiders" participating in the agency process was a unique aspect of the approach, one with potential issues. But your staff understood, welcomed us, and worked with us as part of the team. I was delighted to hear at the conclusion of the work that they felt we had made a very positive contribution to the review process and to the ultimate decisions.
- It was grueling and challenging work. It took two UPS guys to deliver the proposals and I had to return them to SHA in three trips – a lot of work, but very fulfilling.
- I have to admit to an ulterior motive. I live at one end of 270 and my grandchildren live at the other end. I can't tell you how many soccer games and school plays we have missed over the years because of that road. I believe we have done something for other grandparents in the future.

My best wishes for every success with the project. I will be proud to be there for any ribbon cutting event just to see how well it has done. To be sure, we have to monitor the program, and promise to report to the citizens and users on what they got for their money in the future.

Congratulations, *Alan E. Pisarski*