



# City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive  
Bowie, Maryland 20715

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

**RE:** *Subregion I Preliminary Master Plan and Proposed Sectional Map Amendment*

**DATE:** September 16, 2009

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Staff reviewed the recently released *Subregion I Preliminary Master Plan and Proposed Sectional Map Amendment* and noted that there is no mention in the Plan of the City's recommendation to restore A-58, a new arterial roadway which is needed north of Bowie State University, to connect MD 197 to MD 424 in Anne Arundel County. The City Council has adopted a position that this road should be included in the *Countywide Master Plan of Transportation*.

Construction of this road will improve regional traffic circulation and alleviate congestion in the Route 450 corridor, east of Race Track Road, and the heavy traffic volumes that are projected to use Race Track Road and Jericho Park Road. The need for the new road is further justified with the impending approval of a new mixed-use "Community Center" at the MARC Station/Bowie State University which will intensify usage of the MARC Station and which will result in new residents, workers and shoppers traveling through the area.

A Joint Public Hearing of the District Council and County Planning Board has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2009. Staff prepared the attached City Council position letter to remind the County of the City's desire to include discussion in the Subregion I Plan about the need to restore A-58 to the County's long-range transportation and master plans.

### Recommendation

Consistent with Council policy, it is recommended that the attached recommendation letter, containing the City Council's position supporting a recommendation in the Subregion I Plan about the need to restore A-58, be sent as the City's input at the Joint Public Hearing.

### Attachment

**DRAFT**

September 22, 2009

The Honorable Marilyn Bland, Chairperson  
Prince George's County Council  
County Administration Building  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

RE: *Subregion I Preliminary Master Plan and Proposed Sectional Map Amendment*

Dear Chairperson Bland:

The Bowie City Council reviewed the *Subregion I Preliminary Master Plan and Proposed Sectional Map Amendment* and wishes to comment on one aspect of the plan relating to the transportation network.

The City Council has adopted a position that a new arterial roadway is needed north of Bowie State University, to connect MD 197 to MD 424 in Anne Arundel County (see Attachment). Construction of this road will improve regional traffic circulation and alleviate congestion in the Route 450 corridor, east of Race Track Road, and the heavy traffic volumes that are projected to use Race Track Road and Jericho Park Road. The need for the new road is further justified with the impending approval of a new mixed-use "Community Center" at the MARC Station/Bowie State University which will intensify usage of the MARC Station and which will result in new residents, workers and shoppers traveling through the area.

The City Council does not accept the M-NCPPC staff's conclusion that, because A-58 (which was shown on the prior Area Master Plan) was eliminated upon approval of the *2006 Bowie and Vicinity Master Plan*, it should not be carried forward. The City Council wishes to bring to your attention that the City's recommendation, which was made at the *Preliminary Countywide Master Plan of Transportation* public hearing, was not even analyzed by M-NCPPC staff or the Planning Board for its ability to relieve traffic congestion in the area road network. In the recently released *Subregion I Preliminary Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment*, MNCPPC staff is supporting the upgrading of MD 197 (A-4) to four (4) lanes, between Bowie and Laurel, because over **60 percent** of anticipated traffic is expected to be regional traffic. This ultimately proves the case for a more interconnected arterial roadway system and justifies the City's recommendation for restoring A-58 to the County's transportation and master plans.

*Subregion I Preliminary Master Plan and Proposed Sectional Map Amendment*

There is also a compelling need to address regional traffic issues in the vicinity of the massive, new mixed-use development proposed near Bowie State University in the *Preliminary Bowie State/MARC Station Sector Plan*. A roadway alignment for a future arterial roadway should be shown in the northern end of the mixed-use "Community Center", north of the Office and Research Campus. The location of a future arterial roadway at this location will undoubtedly have consequences for Subregion I. The City Council recommends that the road have a wildlife friendly, parkway design with numerous below grade crossings and tunnels and a minimal footprint and limit of disturbance (some segments of the road may have to be constructed as a causeway on piles to address the constraints of 100-year floodplain, wetlands and the Patuxent River). Providing regional access to the mixed-use center via this recommended arterial road will help the viability of the proposed commercial, office and institutional uses as well as strengthen the multi-modal capability of the center by affording better accessibility to and from the planned transit hub.

The City Council urges you to include discussion in the Subregion I Plan about the need to restore A-58 to the County's long-range transportation and master plans. Thank you for your serious consideration of the City's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Bowie City Council  
G. Frederick Robinson  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Ingrid Turner  
The Honorable Samuel Dean  
The Honorable Samuel Parker

Attachment

