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Local

Balt. county is a big winner in Md. transportation spending

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BALTIMORE -

Funds earmarked to improve transportation initiatives in [Baltimore County](#) are part of [Gov. Martin O'Malley's](#) total package for addressing transit and highway improvements and both BRAC and non-BRAC related growth in [Maryland](#).

"Overall, this is the largest statewide transportation investments in 15 years," said [Maryland Transportation Secretary John Porcari](#), "and Baltimore County is one of the biggest winners."

In the latest effort to help quell the state's burgeoning transportation issues, O'Malley on Thursday designated \$513 million for the projects, which are included in the state's six-year Consolidate Transportation Program.

Among those slated for Baltimore County are funding for new MARC passenger trains, [MARC Penn Line](#) improvements, and improved traffic flow in [Towson](#).

O'Malley's designation also includes \$56.8 million in capital funding to buy buses as well as improve facilities for local transit systems.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," O'Malley said in a statement released Thursday. "We are moving our state forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation and will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place."

O'Malley added that the investment reflects the state's

commitment to expand economic opportunities as well as to improve public safety and homeland security.

Pocari said some of the projects would be jump-started "very quickly."

Baltimore County spokesman [Don Mohler](#) said late Thursday that [County Executive Jim Smith](#) had not had a chance to review the investments list. "Therefore, it would be difficult for us to comment."

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