(1) A TRANSPORTATION PROJECT THAT:

- (I) MAINTAINS THE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING DETERMINE THE PROJECT DOES NOT SERVE TO INCREASE HIGHWAY CAPACITY:
- (II) SERVES TO CONNECT STATE PRIORITY FUNDING AREAS, PROVIDED THAT:
- 1. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE OFFICE OF PLANNING DETERMINE THAT ADEQUATE ACCESS CONTROL MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO:
- A. PREVENT DEVELOPMENT THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH § 5-7A-01(1), (2), AND (3) OF THIS TITLE; AND
- B. MAINTAIN THE VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT WHILE CONCOMITANTLY CONSTRAINING DEVELOPMENT WHICH POTENTIALLY DETRACTS FROM MAIN STREET BUSINESS AREAS; AND
- 2. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF PLANNING HAS FIRST CONSIDERED WHETHER ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION MODES SUCH AS MASS TRANSIT PROVIDE A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PROJECT AND DETERMINED THAT NO SUCH REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE EXISTS:
- (III) HAS THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING CONTROL OF ACCESS
 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ALONG AN EXISTING HIGHWAY CORRIDOR; OR
- (IV) DUE TO ITS OPERATIONAL OR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS; MUST BE LOCATED AWAY FROM OTHER DEVELOPMENT;
- (2) (1) A PROJECT THAT IS REQUIRED TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY: OR
- $\stackrel{\hbox{\scriptsize (2)}}{}$ $\stackrel{\hbox{\scriptsize (2)}}{}$ A PROJECT INVOLVING FEDERAL FUNDS, TO THE EXTENT COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE WOULD CONFLICT OR BE INCONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW; OR
- (3) A GROWTH-RELATED PROJECT FOR A NATURAL RESOURCE BASED INDUSTRY OR TOURISM RELATED INDUSTRY RELATED TO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY WHICH, DUE TO ITS OPERATIONAL OR PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS, SHALL BE LOCATED AWAY FROM OTHER DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING:
 - (I) A NATURAL RESOURCE BASED INDUSTRY;
 - (II) AN INDUSTRY RELATING TO:
- <u>1. AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS, AS DEFINED IN § 7–101 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;</u>