

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Statement by Governor O'Malley

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 1, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley released the following statement today on the death of Maryland Transportation Authority Police Officer Courtney G. Brooks last night.

"The death of Officer Courtney Brooks last night as thousands gathered to celebrate the New Year is a somber reminder of the courageous work done by law enforcement officers throughout our state – at the state and local level – to keep the citizens of Maryland safe," said Governor O'Malley. "My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Brooks, his children, and his entire family, as well as with the Maryland Transportation Authority Police family during this very painful and sad time."

January 1, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Launches *StateStat* Website

Data-based System to Make Government More Accountable, More Efficient; Dozen State Agencies Using StateStat to Monitor Results, Improve Services

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 4, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley officially launched *StateStat* website today to provide the citizens of our Maryland with open, transparent, and timely information and data on state government agencies. Currently, a dozen state agencies, including Maryland's historically most troubled agencies, are using the performance measurement and management tool implemented by Governor O'Malley to make state agencies more accountable and more efficient. The site can be found at www.statestat.maryland.gov.

"Lieutenant Governor Brown and I are committed to providing the people of Maryland with timely and accurate information necessary to hold their State government accountable," said Governor O'Malley. "Using *StateStat*, we are committed to making our State government more accountable and more efficient, and improving state services for the citizens of Maryland."

Modeled after the *CitiStat* program that he developed as Mayor of Baltimore City, Governor O'Malley is using this data-based management approach to make Maryland's government work again for the people of our State. The *CitiStat* program has been studied and emulated by countless jurisdictions from around the globe. *CitiStat* received the "Innovations in Government" Award by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and now Governor O'Malley is bringing these same principles to the management of statewide services.

The Secretary of Juvenile Services, Donald DeVore, whose agency was among the early group of participants, believes that "the *StateStat* process has helped the Department of Juvenile Services become a more data driven system. DJS has also adopted this process internally, which requires our Area Directors, Facility Superintendents and Case Managers to focus on results."

"I firmly believe in using data to manage and inform our decision-making. *StateStat* highlights key issues and trends, allowing us to manage in real time and focus on specific areas," said Secretary of Human Resources Brenda Donald, whose agency is a partner in this endeavor. "It is precisely this data that will be available to citizens through the website, giving them a tangible record of what is being done to improve our government."

Governor O'Malley signed legislation to create *StateStat* on April 10, 2007. The program's key accomplishments so far include:

- Eliminated the backlog of DNA samples from convicted felons waiting, sometimes for years, to be entered into the State's DNA database. Year to date, the Maryland State Police have entered over 24,000 DNA samples into the database compared to the less than 5,000 samples entered in 2006.
- Closed the dilapidated and dangerous House of Correction in Jessup, resulting in safer and more secure conditions for inmates and guards, as well as millions of dollars in annually recurring savings.
- Significantly reduced the number of youth sitting in detention centers pending placement for a juvenile facility or program. In seven months, the number of youths pending placement for over four months has decreased by 89%, and the number of youths pending placement for longer than one month decreased by 57%.

Governor O'Malley has also launched [BayStat](#), which tracks efforts over various State agencies to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The *BayStat* agencies include the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Planning.

January 4, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor Martin O'Malley Places Wager on Redskins Victory

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 4, 2008) Today, Governor Martin O'Malley upped the ante on an already exciting game shaping up in the National Football League playoff game between the Washington Redskins and the Seattle Seahawks.

Earlier today, Governor O'Malley wagered with Washington State Governor Chris Gregoire that the Washington Redskins would be victorious over the Seattle Seahawks in this weekend's match-up. O'Malley wagered Phillips crab cakes and Governor Gregoire wagered a box of apples from Washington State.

"The Redskins will be victorious over the Seattle Seahawks tomorrow. Under Coach Gibbs, the Redskins team has demonstrated remarkable determination in a season filled with ups and downs on and off the field," said Governor O'Malley. "The Redskins have displayed true character and resilience which has inspired football fans in Maryland, the District of Columbia and throughout our nation. Governor Gregoire has to root for the Seahawks, but tomorrow the '12th Man' in Seattle will be singing 'Hail to the Redskins.'"

Washington Governor Gregoire had a different take:

"With their fourth consecutive NFC West title, the Seahawks will dominate the Washington Redskins tomorrow," said Governor Gregoire. "First Mike and I look forward to being part of the 12th man at Qwest Field with thousands of other Seahawks fans as our team marches to compete in another Super Bowl. And, I look forward to sharing Governor O'Malley's generous gift with the Lewis County United Way for distribution to flood victims in the Boistfort and Curtis communities."

The Washington Redskins are Maryland's team in the National Football Conference (NFC), play at FEDEX Field in Prince George's County, and thousands of citizens from the State of Maryland are rallying in support of a team that has made an inspiring run into the playoffs.

The Washington Redskins square off against the Seahawks this Saturday at 4 p.m.

January 4, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Kicks Off the Maryland Crime Victims' Rights and Compliance First Annual Conference

Announces Award of State's First Ever Law Enforcement Technology Grants

ELLICOTT CITY, MD (January 8, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today kicked off the Maryland Crime Victims' Rights and Compliance First Annual Conference in Ellicott City. Hosted by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in partnership with the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the University of Baltimore's Victim Assistance Training Center, the two day conference will provide legal updates and best practices to criminal justice professionals and victim services providers.

"Our first duty to the citizens of Maryland is public safety, as is improving our quality of life and expanding opportunity for more people rather than fewer," said Governor O'Malley. "It is an honor to kick off the first of these annual conferences. The dedicated criminal justice professionals who are here today are committed to meeting the needs of crime victims and I am grateful for their hard work to meet the needs of those victims."

Attendees of the conference, which include law enforcement officers, prosecutors, clerks of the court, Department of Juvenile Services administrators and case managers, local and state corrections professionals, parole and probation agents, and members of the Circuit and District Courts of Maryland will work together to develop short and long term objectives to improve services to victim and ensure statutory compliance.

During his remarks, Governor O'Malley announced the awarding of the State's first ever law enforcement technology grants, which have been granted to 19 jurisdictions, as well as Maryland State Police and other statewide agencies. The grants were allocated from federal law enforcement funding through the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP).

"By enhancing data information-sharing capacity, we are promoting effective security integration partnerships for information sharing among governmental and law enforcement entities throughout Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "These grants fund technology that has an immediate impact on improving the operations of law enforcement agencies across the state."

The \$1.3 million awarded in Law Enforcement Technology grants target technology systems, including:

- **Electronic Ticketing:** A system of writing tickets in-car and transferring the data directly to the courts database, eliminating the need to send 5 paper copies. E-Tix is being rolled out statewide by MSP. GOCCP provides funds to locals so they can participate.
- **Capwin:** Provides local law enforcement user-friendly access to state warrant databases, drivers license photos.
- **MDC Upgrades:** Improvements to in-car computer systems, software and hardware.
- **CAD/RMS:** Computer-aided dispatch and records management systems for police.
- **License plate recognition software.**
- **Mapping/Analysis:** To support Compstat in local departments.
- **Gun Licensing (MSP):** Network improvements to MSP gun licensing and registration database so the information is more easily accessible to all law enforcement.
- **CCTV:** Gang and crime surveillance and intelligence sharing technology.

In addition to breaking new ground by emphasizing law enforcement technology, these grant awards

provide specific opportunities to those local jurisdictions that have not been funded in the past. Governor O'Malley lifted the local funding match that used to be required for GOCCP grants. Talbot County received funding for a CAD system, replacing its old 17-year old system.

"Tax dollars are scarce," said Sheriff Dallas Pope. "We had been using pencils and index cards to store information. This grant supplies us with real building blocks for a huge jump into modernizing our police efforts in Talbot County."

The grants announced today are in addition to the \$750,000 in grants the Governor awarded to detention centers in November for gang information collection and sharing. All of the information gathered in the detention centers will be available to police and sheriffs in the awarded jurisdictions, giving them new data as they crack down on gangs and crime.

LETC PROGRAM FY08 REPORT BY COUNTY

Allegany	\$57,868	
Anne Arundel	\$47,500	
Baltimore City	\$37,785	DGS
Baltimore Co.	\$89,247	MSP, Spring Grove, MTA
Calvert	\$39,727	
Caroline	\$71,958	7 jurisdictions served
Carroll	\$24,924	
Charles	\$54,774	
Dorchester	\$39,766	
Frederick	\$45,500	
Garrett	\$23,344	
Harford	\$75,522	
Howard	\$48,838	
Kent	\$18,258	
Montgomery	\$88,547	
Prince George's	\$293,611	
Talbot	\$47,000	
Washington	\$47,407	
Wicomico	\$90,246	Sisbury Hub serving multiple jurisdictions
Worcester	\$10,471	

January 8, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Proposes Expansion of DNA Database for Violent Offenders to Improve Public Safety

Announces State's Success in Elimination of DNA Backlog of More Than 24,000 Samples to Solve Crime in Maryland

[[View video / Read remarks](#)]

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 10, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Attorney General Douglas Gansler, Baltimore County State's Attorney Scott Shellenberger, and law enforcement officials, today announced proposed legislation to expand DNA sampling to arrestees of "Crimes of Violence" and burglaries to improve public safety and solve violent crimes in our communities.

Governor O'Malley also announced Maryland's success in eliminating the backlog of untested and uncollected DNA samples from convicted felons, which had grown to over 24,000 by the end of 2006. Today's event is the first in a series of events where Governor O'Malley will roll out his legislative agenda and budget priorities for the 2008 legislative session.

"Public safety is the most important responsibility our government has. The Maryland State Police has completed a task that many said could not be done – ahead of schedule. I want to thank them for their commitment to this project and for improving Maryland's public safety," said Governor O'Malley. "DNA is an important law enforcement tool. By expanding our DNA database, investigation, prosecution, and incarceration resources will be saved, crimes will be solved, the wrongly accused will be exonerated, and most significantly, violent crimes in our communities will be prevented and solved."

"We have taken an important step forward to remove the backlog of DNA in Maryland criminal justice databases," said Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown. "Because of the Governor's leadership and our ongoing efforts to make government more efficient, we will, in turn, save lives."

The proposed expansion of the DNA database would match arrestees' DNA to existing casework files early in the process to close old cases, prevent repeat violent offenders from escaping apprehension, and clear individuals who are being held for crimes they did not commit. DNA collected under this statute will be stored in the DNA data base system for analysis as part of a criminal investigation. The proposed expansion would require the collection of a DNA sample from individuals arrested for:

- abduction;
- arson in the first degree;
- burglary;
- kidnapping;
- manslaughter;
- mayhem;
- maiming;
- rape;
- robbery;
- carjacking;
- 1st and 2nd degree sexual offense;
- use of a handgun in commission of a felony or other violent crime;
- child abuse-1st degree;
- sexual abuse of a minor under the age of 13 by an adult;
- 1st degree assault;

- continuing course of conduct with a child;
- any attempts of the previously mentioned crimes.

In the last year, the O'Malley-Brown Administration took important steps to increase security in communities in every region of our state. Together, we have:

- Ended parole for child sex offenders with Jessica's Law.
- Invested \$2 million in monitoring child sex offenders – including GPS tracking.
- Closed Maryland's most violent prison, the Maryland House of Corrections.
- Passed a tough anti-gang law to help prosecutors get convictions.
- Boosted drug treatment by \$5 million.
- Began long-needed reform of Juvenile Services, opening the first new, smaller facility in years.
- Initiated a Comstat Technical Assistance program to enhance crime analysis.
- Launched a Gang Intelligence Gathering Initiative to track gang members by sharing information between State and local governmental correctional facilities.
- Forged a partnership with the District of Columbia to fight cross-border gun trafficking.
- Begun sharing live arrest data with DC to enable Parole and Probation to get re-offenders off the street.
- Enabled State Police to access mental health data before approving gun purchases – in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

In one year, the DNA backlog of 24,300 offender samples has been eliminated. The Maryland offender samples in the FBI CODIS database have been increased by more than 88%. In addition, the number of positive DNA matches (or "hits") increased by 51% in 2007 compared to 2006, with a total of 287 hits in 2007.

"Following the Governor's lead and with his support, we've been able to join forces with our State Police colleagues in this initiative so crucial to Maryland's security," said Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary Gary D. Maynard. "Cutting through this backlog of DNA is a great example of effective and integrated government based on a simple idea, a bit of legwork and some old fashioned cooperation."

"In less than one year, we have dramatically increased the efficiency of Maryland's DNA data base and our ability to connect criminals with the crimes they have committed," said Colonel Terrence B. Sheridan, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police. "This accomplishment was the direct result of Governor O'Malley's support and commitment. The Governor's increased funding for DNA analysis, the addition of forensic scientist positions, the ability to fill all crime laboratory vacancies, and the dedicated work of our Forensic Sciences Division staff, have resulted in a DNA data base that has already proven to be more effective than ever in assisting Maryland law enforcement agencies as we work together to keep our citizens safe."

In the last year, Maryland has cleared a number of high-profile cases using DNA evidence. For example, from May 15, 2007 to December 10, 2007, 24 rape cases in Baltimore County were cleared through DNA, leading to the arrest and/or charging of 15 suspects, several with multiple crimes. The most notorious was Alphonso Hill charged in seven county cases and one city case.

"DNA evidence is a powerful tool for law enforcement," said Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler. "The science is unassailable, juries trust DNA evidence, and expanding the DNA database will allow us to get violent criminals off the street before they have an opportunity to commit even more horrendous crimes."

[[Listen to audio MP3](#)]

January 10, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces New Initiative to Improve Juvenile Justice, Public Safety

Announces \$1 Million Allocation for Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Electronic Monitoring for Department of Juvenile Services

BALTIMORE, MD (January 11, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon, Baltimore City Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld, and Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Donald DeVore, today announced continued efforts to improve public safety and juvenile justice in Maryland's communities.

Governor O'Malley announced plans to improve public safety by allocating \$1 million in the FY 2009 budget for the purchase of GPS Electronic Monitoring equipment to monitor, track, and supervise 200 of the State's most at-risk juvenile offenders. Governor O'Malley also announced the creation of the Violence Prevention Unit within the Department of Juvenile Services that will supervise and monitor these at-risk youth.

"Public safety is the foundation of the quality of life we enjoy in Maryland and making our neighborhoods and communities more secure is a goal that all Marylanders share. It is undeniable that one of the most important duties of any government and, in fact, hardest challenges, is public safety," said Governor O'Malley. "With the ability to constantly monitor offenders, we will make great strides in improving our supervision and treatment practices, taking us one step further towards making our communities safer."

"This GPS monitoring system is an important and valuable new tool that will contribute significantly to our campaign to make every neighborhood and every person safer," said Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon.

This announcement comes one day after Governor O'Malley announced proposed legislation to expand DNA sampling to arrestees of "Crimes of Violence" and burglaries to improve public safety and solve violent crimes in our communities. Governor O'Malley also announced Maryland's success in eliminating the backlog of untested and uncollected DNA samples from convicted felons, which had grown to over 24,000 by the end of 2006. Today's event is the second in a series of events where Governor O'Malley will roll out his legislative agenda and budget priorities for the 2008 legislative session.

"GPS will enable the Department to know the exact location of our youth, which will help us ensure youth are not only where they should be but where they shouldn't be. This greatly improves our abilities to protect victims as well as the community at large," said the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services, Donald DeVore.

The sophisticated GPS of this system transmits the exact location of offenders in real time and sets up inclusion and exclusion zones, allowing officials to pinpoint the exact movement of offenders in the community. The offenders will be placed in the newly created Violence Prevention Unit within the Department of Juvenile Services. These youth, who are on probation, on aftercare, or part of the Operation Safe Kids program, will be constantly monitored to prevent them from committing repeat offenses and threatening the safety of our Maryland communities.

In addition to the proven effectiveness of GPS Electronic Monitoring systems, Secretary DeVore touched on an additional benefit: "GPS is a cost effective way to maintain public safety without having to detain these youth. The cost of GPS is approximately 20 dollars a day versus hundreds of dollars for detention."

January 11, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Initiative to Protect Homeownership

Announces Legislative Package, New Regulations, and 'Bridge to Hope' Loan Program to Help Homeowners

LANDOVER, MD (January 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced new legislation and emergency regulations and initiatives to help thousands of Maryland homeowners at risk of losing their homes and to prevent future generations of homeowners losing their homes due to foreclosure following the sub-prime mortgage crisis facing our entire nation today.

The Governor was joined by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Secretary Thomas Perez and Department of Housing and Community Development Secretary Raymond Skinner, and many local elected officials and community leaders in Prince George's County to roll out a comprehensive package of initiatives and reforms aimed at addressing the drastic rise in foreclosures in Maryland.

"Homeownership is the cornerstone of the American dream and the building block of a stronger and growing middle class," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "But thousands of homeowners in Maryland and across our nation, through no fault of their own, have fallen victim to fraudulent schemes and scams by dishonest lenders and brokers in the wake of the sub-prime mortgage crisis facing our nation. The proposals we are announcing today will help those families at risk of foreclosure, and create greater protections for future homeowners. These initiatives will also serve as a reminder for those in the mortgage industry that we will not stand by while Maryland's middle class families fall victim to irresponsible, deceptive, and predatory lending practices."

"Governor O'Malley and I believe that a government of the people ought to work for them," Lt. Governor Brown said. "Too many Marylanders are being punished through no fault of their own and we intend to protect working families from losing their homes to sub-prime markets and predatory lenders."

Last year, Governor O'Malley created the Homeownership Preservation Task Force to develop recommendations on how to help Maryland homeowners, reform lending practices, lengthen the foreclosure process to make it fairer, and crack down on fraud and unscrupulous practices in the mortgage industry.

Foreclosure rates have risen dramatically across the nation, and Maryland has not escaped the trend. From the 3rd Quarter of 2006 to the 3rd Quarter of 2007, foreclosure events in Maryland increased by 639 percent. The climb is expected to continue this year as many of the adjustable rate mortgages issued in recent years reset to higher interest rates. It is estimated that 33,000 Maryland homeowners are expected to face interest rate resets this year.

The package of initiatives announced today includes the "Bridge to HOPE" Loan Program, which will provide small gap loans at zero percent interest to homeowners facing difficulty, giving them time to get back on their feet or find a solution. The statewide program will be administered by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Administration (CDA).

"The Bridge to HOPE will literally provide hope to hundreds of Maryland homeowners," said Secretary Raymond A. Skinner. "We want to ensure that homeownership is protected and sustainable in Maryland. Through partnerships with housing counseling agencies throughout the state, we will implement practical solutions to foreclosure challenges."

Governor O'Malley also announced today an emergency regulation that will make Maryland the second state in the country to require loan servicers to file detailed monthly disclosure reports about their loss mitigation and loan modification efforts. The reports will outline the precise nature and

extent of the actions being taken to assist homeowners who have defaulted on loans.

"There are thousands of Marylanders on the verge of foreclosure and we need information now to learn what actions servicers are taking to prevent foreclosure," Secretary Perez said. "Data collection and reporting is a critical accountability tool that only one other state, California, has in place."

Governor O'Malley's legislative package and regulatory proposals include: The legislative and regulatory proposals include bills that will:

- Improve the regulation of mortgage industry professionals and reform lending practices by:
 - Banning pre-payment penalties for sub prime loans;
 - Assuring a borrower's ability to repay a loan and verify sources of income; and
 - Increasing the mortgage licensing requirements, including the surety bond requirement for mortgage lender licensees and institute a minimum net worth requirement.
- Create a criminal mortgage fraud statute that covers all potential actors engaged in mortgage fraud.
- Modify the Protection for Homeowners in Foreclosure Act (PHIFA), which was passed in 2005, by banning the conveyance of real property in the foreclosure rescue context.
- Reform the foreclosure process by:
 - Requiring a lender to wait 90 days after default before filing the foreclosure action;
 - Sending a uniform Notice of Intent to Foreclose to the homeowner 45 days prior to filing an action; and
 - Requiring personal service to notify a homeowner of impending foreclosure and require that a sale may not occur for 45 days after service
- Reform lending practices in Maryland by:
 - Requiring a duty of good faith and fair dealing for mortgage industry professionals;
 - Requiring brokers and lenders to show a reasonable net tangible benefit for borrowers when refinancing;
 - Tracking rates of default and foreclosure of mortgage industry professionals; and
 - Strengthening the experience requirement to obtain a license.

[View: [Fact Sheet](#) - [Legislative Proposals](#)]

January 14, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Plan to Make College More Affordable for Working Families

Announces Proposal to Freeze Tuition for Higher Education for Third Consecutive Year; Historic Level of Capital Funding for Community College

BALTIMORE, MD (January 14, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, University System of Maryland Chancellor Brit Kirwan, and UMBC President. Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, today announced a tuition freeze for higher education in Maryland for the third consecutive year.

O'Malley announced plans to provide funds in his proposed FY 2009 operating budget to freeze tuition for the 2008-2009 academic year. Governor O'Malley also announced a 12% increase in community college funding, and a historic \$81 million to improve academic facilities on 13 community college campuses statewide. O'Malley will introduce his proposed operating budget for FY 2009 on Wednesday.

"An educated workforce is essential for economic growth in our State, yet Maryland families have seen college tuition rates soar almost 40% since 2000. It's my hope that this third consecutive tuition freeze will help Maryland students and families make the dream of college degree a reality," said Governor O'Malley. "With the newly created Higher Education Investment Fund (HEIF), we are able to make stabilizing college tuition costs a top priority for this Administration and our State."

"There are few places where our goals for a brighter future intersect more clearly than Maryland's colleges and universities," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "Because of the leadership and vision of Governor O'Malley and our partners at every University System of Maryland institution, we will make college a possibility for more Maryland students."

In addition to the in-state undergraduate tuition freeze at Maryland's four-year public institutions, including Morgan State University, Governor O'Malley announced an increase in funding and financial aid for Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and an increase in support for research institutions to help build Maryland's economic future.

In Governor O'Malley's FY 2009, \$54.9 million from the Higher Education Trust Fund is dedicated to the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission:

- \$16.3 million to freeze tuition at USM institutions and Morgan State University;
- \$11.5 million to expand enrollment by 1,529 students at USM institutions and 90 students at Morgan State University. USM enrollment projections suggest that by FY 2016, undergraduate enrollment will increase by 30%, from 98,000 to 127,000 students, and graduate enrollment will increase by 43%, from 37,000 to 54,000 students.
- \$1.5 million to narrow the achievement gap between low-income, first generation students and students of color compared to college



students as a whole; and

- \$18.5 million for workforce/research/economic competitiveness to help meet the demand for graduates with professional degrees in nursing and other health fields, engineering, science, and math.

"Governor O'Malley is continuing his remarkable commitment to higher education. His proposal enables the University System of Maryland to keep tuition flat for in-state undergraduates while maintaining quality, serve more students, and enhance our ability to advance workforce creation and development as well as competitiveness."

The Governor's proposed FY 2009 budget also recognizes the unique role that community colleges play in educating our students. This past year, Maryland's community colleges experienced the most growth of any higher education sector at 2.6 percent, or 3,057 students, accounting for more than 53 percent of growth statewide.

Governor O'Malley's budget increases the State's investment in local community colleges by \$26.6 million and provides Baltimore City Community College an additional \$1.4 million in State funding. Moreover, the capital budget includes a record level of capital funding for the community colleges -- \$81 million to improve academic facilities on 13 community college campuses, including a new Science Center at the Montgomery College-Rockville Campus and a new library at the Community College of Baltimore County.

The Governor's proposed FY 2009 budget also \$201.8 million in capital funding to improve facilities at Maryland's public four-year higher education institutions.

Last year, working with the General Assembly, Governor O'Malley created the Higher Education Investment Fund, the first of its kind to dedicate a revenue stream to higher education. The purpose of the Fund is to keep tuition affordable for Maryland students and families and to invest in public higher education and workforce development.

January 14, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Closes Rosewood Center

Most Residents to Relocate to the Community, Process to Occur Over Next 18 Months

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 15, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today signed an [Executive Order](#) to close Rosewood Center, a state-run facility that has served individuals with developmental disabilities in Maryland for more than 100 years. The process to relocate residents is expected to take 18 months.

Most of the 156 residents of the facility that is operated by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) will be offered placements in community settings. The Department will work with each individual to identify the most appropriate services and setting.

"Over the years, much progress has been made in caring for individuals with disabilities and helping people live to their fullest potential as active members of their community. The physical conditions at Rosewood no longer allow us to provide the level of care that every individual deserves," Governor O'Malley said. "As we move forward, we will work with direct-care workers who have given so much of themselves at Rosewood, the residents, families and advocates to provide the highest quality of care."

DHMH representatives will work with the residents, their families and advocate groups to ensure the community placement provides the best possible outcome. Department leaders will be meeting with Rosewood staff and union representatives to outline future employment options. There are 513 full time employees and 42 contractual workers at the facility.

"This will be a thoughtful, deliberative and open process," said DHMH Secretary John M. Colmers. "Our commitment has been, and remains to work individually with each resident to provide the best possible care and services without interruption both now and in the future."

In recent years, Rosewood has been plagued by a number of problems that have affected the safety and well-being of its residents. The state's Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), in its recent annual audits of the center, revealed many disturbing findings. In September 2006, OHCQ issued an 'immediate jeopardy' letter to the facility that outlined a number of critical problems that required immediate attention. In January of 2007, admissions to Rosewood were halted after another immediate jeopardy. In August of 2007, the facility was found to be non-compliant in seven of eight conditions of licensure participation and was issued another immediate jeopardy letter. Although many of these problems have been corrected, the combination of an out-dated facility with a mix of court-committed and civilly-placed residents has led to the decision to close the center.

DHMH has finalized, *Rosewood Center - Plan for Services to Residents*, a document called for by the Maryland General Assembly's passage of HB 970 in 2007. The report assesses each resident at Rosewood, identifies his or her needs, and determines the appropriateness of community placement. Findings show the overwhelming majority of the residents can live in community settings.

Although transitioning residents to community settings is possible, it is not a simple matter. Expansion of community capacity is necessary and adequate funding for these services must be identified. As a result, the department has determined it will take 18 months to complete the closure process.

The Department of Planning will work with Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, county officials, and community residents to plan for the future use of the property.

Background on Rosewood Center

Rosewood Center was established as the "Asylum and Training School for the Feeble Minded" in 1888 on a 683-acre property near the Owings Mills area of Baltimore County. In 1912, its name was

changed to the Rosewood State Training School and in 1961 it became the Rosewood State Hospital. It later acquired the current Rosewood Center designation.

At its peak, the campus consisted of 43 buildings totaling nearly 730,000 square feet. State records show the first building -- one that is no longer in active use -- opened in 1892. Today, Rosewood Center consists of 300 acres. Twenty acres of the Center are designated as conservation zoning. There are 26 buildings comprising more than 480,000 square feet in active use. Many of the buildings in current use were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, though one dates back to 1895.

Rosewood residents represent a broad spectrum of disabilities including people with mental retardation and challenging behaviors, people with complex medical needs, and people with developmental disabilities who have been involved with the criminal justice system and court-ordered for services. At one time, Rosewood was home to nearly 3,000 individuals. It is licensed to serve a total of 225 residents. As January 15, 2008, 156 individuals live at Rosewood.

[The *Rosewood Center - Plan for Services to Residents* can be accessed by visiting www.ddamaryland.org.]

January 15, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Unveils FY 2009 Budget

Reduces spending by \$550 million; Cuts 500 positions from State government

Another Year of Record Funding for K-12 Education

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 16, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, today released the FY 2009 budget for the State of Maryland. The FY 2009 budget includes \$333 million for school construction, another year of record funding for K-12 Education, full funding of Program Open Space, increased funding for the environment and public safety, and funding for the expansion of health care coverage.

"Maryland's budget is one of the clearest reflections of the values we share to build a stronger, healthier Maryland for the next generation, and to make progress on our shared goals," said Governor O'Malley. "Building on the progress we made to make State government work again last year, we remain committed to expanding economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, reforming and improving our schools and making higher education more affordable, improving public safety and homeland security, and protecting our quality of life and our natural resources."

"Governor O'Malley and I understand that strong states like Maryland are not born through chance, they are built through the investments we make in ourselves," Lt. Governor Brown said. "The budget we introduced today is a reflection of the goals we set and the promises we made to improve public safety and education, expand opportunities to more Marylanders and strengthen Maryland's working families."

Governor O'Malley's budget grows less than the Spending Affordability Limit set by the General Assembly and the Rainy Day Fund balance will grow to \$739 million by the close of FY 2009. The General Fund balance projected for the close of FY 2009 is \$177 million, and \$210 million is allocated for future retiree health care costs, double the amount included last year. Governor O'Malley also cut spending by \$550 million – on top of the \$280 million in reductions achieved last July.

Protecting Maryland Families and Our Quality of Life

Protecting our families – and maintaining our quality of life – is a key component of the FY 2009 budget. The budget includes \$124.5 million to expand health care coverage and provides additional funds to improve access to oral health care, expand community placements for those under the State's care, enhance substance abuse treatment programs, and continue advancements in the promising field of stem cell research.

Improving K-12 and Higher Education

An educated workforce is central to economic growth and improving Maryland's competitiveness in the global economy. The FY 2009 budget includes investments in K-12 education, higher education, technical and professional training, adult training and literacy programs, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) readiness, and business growth and job development.

Building on a \$400 million investment last year for school construction, the FY 2009 capital budget includes \$333 million for new schools and school renovation projects in local jurisdictions. The budget includes an increase of \$184 million for K-12 Education, including an unprecedented \$75.8 million for the Geographic Cost of Education Index. The budget includes \$54.9 million from the new Higher Education Investment Fund to keep college tuition affordable, and address enrollment growth, the achievement gap, and workforce capacity. Earlier this week, Governor O'Malley announced a tuition freeze for higher education in Maryland for the third consecutive year.

Growing Maryland's Middle Class: Workforce Creation

The FY 2009 budget makes strategic investments to continue Maryland's economic growth – and expand opportunity for our neighbors in every jurisdiction, including \$72.5 million for business development programs (including \$18.4 million to support small or minority business entrepreneurs), an increase of \$2.3 million for Vocational Rehabilitation programs, \$23 million for stem cell research, \$6 million for Biotechnology Investment Tax credits, \$5 million in the capital budget to continue development of the East Baltimore Biotechnology Park, and \$2.4 million for the Nano-Tech Biotechnology fund.

Protecting Our Environment

Maryland has tremendous opportunities for growth and economic development in the year ahead, but we also face the tremendous challenge of managing growth and development in a more sustainable way to preserve and protect our natural resources and the quality of life that we enjoy as Marylanders.

To meet these challenges, the FY 2009 budget includes \$156 million for nutrient removal from wastewater treatment plants, \$50 million for the new 2010 Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, \$45.7 million for agricultural land preservation, and \$45.6 million for Program Open Space.

The FY 2009 budget also provides funding for energy efficiency and conservation programs to help the State meet its "Empower Maryland" goal of reducing energy consumption by 15% by 2015, including \$481,000 and 7 new positions for the Maryland Energy Administration to help move toward more sustainable energy use; \$5.5 million for weatherization assistance for low income homeowners; and funding for capital projects to incorporate "green" or sustainable features into State buildings. Under the Clean Cars initiative, the FY 2009 budget also allows the Maryland Transit Administration to purchase 30 new hybrid-electric buses for the Baltimore Metro area; and \$621,000 is included in the capital budget to construct statewide infrastructure to support ethanol fueled vehicles.

Improving Public Safety

Public safety is the foundation of the quality of life we enjoy in Maryland and is the primary responsibility of any government to its citizens. Security integration – the sharing of law enforcement resources, data and intelligence – is essential to making our neighborhoods and communities more secure.

To this end, the FY 2009 budget supports coordination of state and local law enforcement efforts across jurisdictional lines, including wireless interoperability projects, new offender monitoring programs to improve public safety in our communities, an expansion of DNA analysis and sampling for those arrested for violent crimes, and improved detention facilities and treatment programs for inmates.

The FY 2009 budget also includes substantial funding to support and improve the quality of life for Maryland National Guard members and U.S. armed services veterans. A new Reintegration Program receives \$800,000 in General Funds to assist Maryland National Guard members returning from overseas deployments in readjusting to life at home.

[[read budget highlights](#) - [view presentation slides](#) - [listen to audio mp3](#)]

January 16, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces \$333 Million for School Construction

***Governor Visits Catonsville to Announce \$19.6 Million for School Construction for County;
O'Malley Invests a Record \$5.3 Billion to Improve K-12 Public Education;***

CATONSVILLE, MD (January 17, 2008) – Just one day after releasing his FY 2009 budget, Governor Martin O'Malley visited Baltimore County to announce \$333 million for school construction in Maryland, including \$19.6 million for Baltimore County public schools. Governor O'Malley's proposed budget also includes \$5.3 billion for K-12 public education statewide, an increase of \$184 million over last year.

Governor O'Malley joined Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith and Baltimore County Superintendent Joe Hairston at Western School of Technology and Environmental Science in Catonsville to make his announcement. During his visit, Governor O'Malley visited with students and toured the school. Western will receive \$860,000 to replace portions of the roof and walls at the school.

"Building on the success of last year's investments in public education and public school construction, we've brought a total of \$733 million to Maryland public schools to get kids out of learning shacks and into the classroom," said Governor O'Malley. "Western School of Technology and Environmental Science is one of the finest schools in our state and is essential to preparing students who are interested in technology and environmental science. Just like so many schools throughout our State, Western has many capital needs that must be addressed in the coming years."

"Too many of our students are still learning in temporary learning shacks and out-of-date buildings," Lt. Governor Brown said. "We have an obligation to improve our schools and our quality of life for all Marylanders, including those moving here because of BRAC. By investing in state-of-the-art school construction, we will do exactly that."

Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown, County Executive Smith, Superintendent Hairston and Principal Jester, other school officials, local elected officials and students, toured the school and stopped in classrooms such as Health, Environmental Technology, and Environmental Science, along the way.

"I am very pleased with Governor O'Malley's continued support for school renovation and construction funding," stated Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "Education is a major priority for local leaders across the State, and these funds will make a real difference for children in every school district."

Building on a \$400 million investment last year for school construction, the FY 2009 capital budget includes \$333 million for new schools and school renovation projects in local jurisdictions. The budget includes an increase of \$184 million for K-12 Education, including an unprecedented \$75.8 million for the Geographic Cost of Education Index. The FY 2009 budget also invests \$34.4 million in Supplemental Grants to ensure all jurisdictions receive an increase over last year, \$55.3 million to increase Teacher Retirement payments to \$622 million, and \$2 million for the new SEED school.

Western School of Technology and Environmental Science opened in 1970, originally offering ten vocational programs to students from three high schools. In 1975, an addition was built and the number of programs increased to 20. Western was converted to a magnet school in 1993 and continued its focus on career programs, adding an environmental science program whose career required a college degree. The 42-acre campus is located in the southwest area of Baltimore County and offers a butterfly observatory garden, an urban forestry site, a watershed management center, a wetland, an outside classroom, a mature hardwood forest, and a student-managed master floral and herb garden.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Major Transportation Investments for Central Maryland

Funds Provided for MARC, Light Rail, Metro, Bus And US 29, MD 175, I-795

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a series of \$678 million in transit and highway improvements for Central Maryland designed to address traffic congestion and both BRAC and non-BRAC related growth. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

Today, Governor O'Malley announced the following transportation investments that will positively impact the citizens of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard and Harford counties and Baltimore City:

- \$52 million for new MARC passenger coaches
- \$125 million for MARC Penn Line improvements
- \$17 million for MARC Camden Line improvements
- \$237 million for system preservation investments in MTA Metro, Light Rail and Bus
- \$92 million for intersections improvements near Fort Meade in Anne Arundel County and Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County
- \$48 million to widen northbound US 29 from two to three lanes from Seneca Drive to MD 175 and to build sound barriers in Howard County
- \$40 million for construction of Phase I of the Charles Street / Beltway Interchange to build a new Charles Street Bridge over the Beltway to improve traffic flow and safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians
- \$28 million in engineering funds for a new interchange at I-795 and Dolefield Road in Baltimore County
- \$11 million for streetscape improvements along US 40 from Middle River to MD 43 in Baltimore County, including resurfacing and landscaping that will also improve safety and traffic operations
- \$11 million for roadway improvements along Broening Highway to improve vital access to the Port of Baltimore
- \$8 million for a streetscape along Baltimore & Annapolis Boulevard from Dorsey Road to MD 10 in Glen Burnie
- Towson, including the Towson Roundabout
- \$3 million in engineering funds to widen MD 175 from MD 295 to MD 170 in Anne Arundel County
- \$3 million to complete engineering to widen MD 26 in Carroll County from Liberty Reservoir to MD 32

In addition to these local investments, the State has added \$56.8 million in capital funding to buy

buses and improve facilities used by locally-operated transit systems. Local transit agencies can apply for these funds as part of an annual application process administered by the Maryland Transit Administration. Also, approximately \$7 million per year in additional funding will be available for operating assistance. The increase in funding is needed to address rising fuel, insurance and labor costs, but also supports the expansion of services to provide access to employment, medical care and other critical transportation needs.

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#) will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Major Transportation Investments for Prince George's County

Improvements Planned For Metro, MARC, US 1, and Beltway Interchanges to Branch Avenue and Greenbelt Metro Stations

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a series of nearly \$460 million in transit and highway improvements for Prince George's County designed to address traffic congestion and both BRAC and non-BRAC related growth. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

Today, Governor O'Malley announced the following transportation investments that will positively impact the citizens of Prince George's County:

- \$100 million to move forward with engineering of the Purple Line
- \$52 million for new MARC passenger coaches
- \$100 million for MARC Penn Line improvements
- \$16 million for MARC Camden Line improvements
- \$100 million in dedicated funding for Metro
- \$66 million to construct improved access to the Branch Avenue Metro Station from the Capital Beltway and from Branch Avenue
- \$10 million to construct a streetscape in Hyattsville along Queens Chapel Road from East West Highway to Hamilton Street
- \$8 million to construct the needed ramps to provide a full interchange at the Capital Beltway and the Greenbelt Metro Station
- \$7 million in engineering funds to expand traffic capacity along US 1 between University Boulevard and College Avenue
- Prince George's County's locally operated transit system, The Bus

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#) will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Major Transportation Investments for Montgomery County

Improvements Planned for Metro, MARC, Georgia Avenue and MD 355

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a series of nearly \$470 million in transit and highway improvements for Montgomery County designed to address traffic congestion and both BRAC and non-BRAC related growth. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

Today, Governor O'Malley announced the following transportation investments that will positively impact the citizens of Montgomery County:

- \$100 million to move forward with engineering of the Purple Line
- \$80 million to move forward with engineering of the Corridor Cities Transitway
- \$63 million to construct a new interchange at Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road
- \$52 million for new MARC passenger coaches
- \$16 million for MARC Brunswick Line improvements
- \$100 million in dedicated funding for Metro
- \$45 million in BRAC-related improvements to Bethesda area roads
- \$5 million in engineering funds for a new interchange at I-270 and Watkins Mill Road
- \$5 million for bus replacements for Montgomery County's locally operated transit system, Ride-On and \$5 million annually to support operations for Ride-On
- \$3 million in planning funds to improve traffic capacity and pedestrian safety on Georgia Avenue from I-495 to 16th Street.

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#) will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Major Transportation Investments for Eastern Shore

Funds Provided Will Move Key Projects Forward, Including Next Phases of US 113 And MD 404, Traffic Capacity and Safety Projects, and Investments in Freight Railroads and Local Transit Systems

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a series of nearly \$43 million in transit and highway improvements for the Eastern Shore designed to address traffic congestion and future growth. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

Today, Governor O'Malley announced the following transportation investments that will positively impact the citizens of the Eastern Shore:

- \$18 million to dualize and widen the next phase of US 113 from Goody Hill Road to Massey Branch
- \$2.5 million in engineering funds to dualize and widen the next phase of MD 404 from MD 309 to Cemetery Road
- \$4 million to build a roundabout and sidewalks along the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Access Road providing students a safer route to school
- \$3 million to study expanding capacity along Nanticoke Road from US 50 to Rockawalkin Road in Salisbury
- \$2 million to complete project planning to improve traffic flow and safety along Race Track Road from US 50 to MD 90 near Ocean Pines
- \$1.6 million for drainage improvements to reduce flooding along US 13 and local roads in Salisbury
- \$7.3 million to upgrade rail lines on the Eastern Shore
- \$5 million to upgrade railroad grade crossings on the Eastern Shore

In addition to these local investments, the State has added \$56.8 million in capital funding to buy buses and improve facilities used by locally-operated transit systems. Local transit agencies can apply for these funds as part of an annual application process administered by the Maryland Transit Administration. Also, approximately \$7 million per year in additional funding will be available for operating assistance. The increase in funding is needed to address rising fuel, insurance and labor costs, but also supports the expansion of services to provide access to employment, medical care and other critical transportation needs.

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#)

will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Moves to Improve Safety and Break a Major Traffic Bottleneck in Frederick County

Funds Provided to Widen I-70, Improve MARC Service

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Committed to reducing traffic congestion and improving transit, Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the State will move to break one of the worst traffic bottlenecks in Frederick County by widening I-70 between MD 355 and Patrick Street. The Governor also announced he will make a major investment in the MARC Train system that will benefit riders on the Brunswick Line. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

The \$55 million project to improve I-70 through Frederick will: add a lane in both directions between MD 355 and Patrick Street; construct a new on-ramp from MD 144 to westbound I-70 to replace the existing on-ramp at Monocacy Boulevard; construct new ramps from I-70 to Reich's Ford Road; and, make intersection improvements on Patrick Street.

Other highway projects for Frederick County that Governor O'Malley has added to the state's capital transportation program include: \$3 million to replace the Jefferson Pike (MD 180) bridge over the Potomac tributary; \$1.5 million to construct a roundabout and improve the flow of traffic at Ballenger Creek Pike (MD 351) and Elmer Derr Road; and, \$600,000 to add left turn lanes and make signal improvements at US 40 and MD 17.

Riders on MARC's Brunswick Line will benefit from the \$52 million purchase of new passenger rail cars, \$13 million for new locomotives, \$13 million in improvements at Union Station in Washington and \$16 million in track signal improvements that are specific to the Brunswick Line.

In addition to these local investments, the State has added \$56.8 million in capital funding to buy buses and improve facilities used by locally-operated transit systems. Local transit agencies can apply for these funds as part of an annual application process administered by the Maryland Transit Administration. Also, approximately \$7 million per year in additional funding will be available for operating assistance. The increase in funding is needed to address rising fuel, insurance and labor costs, but also supports the expansion of services to provide access to employment, medical care and other critical transportation needs.

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#) will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Major Transportation Investments for Baltimore County

Funds Provided for MARC, Metro, Lightrail, Buses and I-795 / Dolefield Interchange, Beltway / Charles Street Interchange, and US 40

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a series of \$513 million in transit and highway improvements for Baltimore County designed to address traffic congestion and both BRAC and non-BRAC related growth. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

Today, Governor O'Malley announced the following transportation investments that will positively impact the citizens of Baltimore County:

- \$52 million for new MARC passenger coaches
- \$125 million for MARC Penn Line improvements
- \$17 million for MARC Camden Line improvements
- \$237 million for system preservation investments in Metro, Lightrail, and Buses
- \$40 million for construction of Phase I of the Charles Street / Beltway Interchange to build a new Charles Street Bridge over the Beltway to improve traffic flow and improve safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians
- \$28 million in engineering funds to move forward the I-795 / Dolefield Interchange, which is a key economic development project for Baltimore County
- \$11 million for streetscape improvements along US 40 from Middle River to MD 43, including resurfacing and landscaping that will also improve safety and traffic operations
- \$3 million to improve traffic flow in the heart of Towson, including the Towson Roundabout

In addition to these local investments, the State has added \$56.8 million in capital funding to buy buses and improve facilities used by locally-operated transit systems. Local transit agencies can apply for these funds as part of an annual application process administered by the Maryland Transit Administration. Also, approximately \$7 million per year in additional funding will be available for operating assistance. The increase in funding is needed to address rising fuel, insurance and labor costs, but also supports the expansion of services to provide access to employment, medical care and other critical transportation needs.

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#) will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Major Transportation Investments for Southern Maryland

Funds Provided for Key Highway Projects and Transit Initiatives, Including Park & Ride Lots and Commuter Buses

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a series of nearly \$56 million in transit and highway improvements for Southern Maryland designed to address traffic congestion and both BRAC and non-BRAC related growth. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

Today, Governor O'Malley announced the following transportation investments that will positively impact the citizens of Southern Maryland:

- \$12 million to build park and ride lots in Prince Frederick, Waldorf, and Charlotte Hall
- \$20 million for new commuter bus coaches statewide
- \$15 million to purchase right-of-way along US 301 for a future Waldorf Bypass
- \$3 million in engineering funds to improve traffic flow and safety along MD 2/4 from Steeple Chase Drive to Commerce Lane
- \$4 million to complete the planning study for a new Thomas Johnson Bridge and capacity improvements along MD 4 from MD 2 to MD 235
- \$2 million for a streetscape along MD 5 Business in Waldorf
- \$500,000 to complete project planning to improve traffic flow and safety along MD 5 from MD 243 to MD 245 in Leonardtown

In addition to these new funds for Southern Maryland projects, the Maryland Transit Administration is conducting two studies for Southern Maryland that reflect Governor O'Malley's statewide commitment to transit. One study, set to begin this spring, will examine the potential feasibility of future commuter rail service between Washington, D.C. and St. Mary's County.

This study will be conducted in addition to the separate Southern Maryland Mass Transportation Analysis now underway by the MTA. That analysis is designed to examine possible alignments for future bus rapid transit or light rail service along the US 301/MD 5 corridor between White Plains and the Branch Avenue Metro Station.

The State also has added \$56.8 million in capital funding to buy buses and improve facilities used by locally-operated transit systems. Local transit agencies can apply for these funds as part of an annual application process administered by the Maryland Transit Administration. Also, approximately \$7 million per year in additional funding will be available for operating assistance. The increase in funding is needed to address rising fuel, insurance and labor costs, but also supports the expansion of services to provide access to employment, medical care and other critical transportation needs.

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation

Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#) will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Major Transportation Investments for Western Maryland

Funds Provided for Highway Safety and Resurfacing Projects; Transit Initiatives Include Funding for Local Transit, MARC and Commuter Buses

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 17, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a series of transit and highway improvements for Western Maryland designed to address highway safety and improve MARC Train and local transit operations. The projects are included in Maryland's six-year Consolidated Transportation Program.

"Investing in transportation means investing in Maryland's future," said Governor O'Malley. "We are moving our State forward with projects that reflect a balanced approach to transportation. We will improve transit, help reduce traffic congestion and preserve the roads, bridges and rails we already have in place. This strong level of investment reflects our shared commitment to expand economic opportunities for Maryland's families and small businesses, improve public safety and homeland security, and protect our quality of life."

Today, Governor O'Malley announced the following transportation investments that will positively impact the citizens Western Maryland Maryland:

- \$52 million for new MARC passenger coaches
- \$16 million for MARC Brunswick Line improvements
- \$20 million for new commuter bus coaches statewide
- \$6 million for resurfacing portions of I-68 in Allegany County
- \$5 million for resurfacing portions of I-81 in Washington County
- \$2 million for resurfacing portions of MD 42 in Garrett County
- \$1.6 million for highway safety improvements in Washington County
- \$2 million for new guardrails along I-68 in Allegany and Washington counties

Governor O'Malley also has added \$56.8 million in capital funding to buy buses and improve facilities used by locally-operated transit systems. Local transit agencies can apply for these funds as part of an annual application process administered by the Maryland Transit Administration. Also, approximately \$7 million per year in additional funding will be available for operating assistance. The increase in funding is needed to address rising fuel, insurance and labor costs, but also supports the expansion of services to provide access to employment, medical care and other critical transportation needs.

Governor O'Malley has added these projects to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete [FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program](#) will be available later today.

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces '1000 by 10' Foster Parent Recruitment Campaign

Sets Goal to Gain 1,000 Foster Homes by 2010

BALTIMORE, MD (January 16, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and Department of Human Resources Secretary Brenda Donald, today announced the launch the new state-wide initiative to recruit and retain foster parents in Maryland. The campaign, "1000 by 10," aims to gain 1,000 foster homes by 2010, and will connect with leaders of Maryland's business communities and other organizations. The number of Maryland foster parents has decreased by more than a thousand between 2003 and 2007.

"Our state must become a national leader for protecting vulnerable children, and we can help provide safety and brighter futures for our youth by ensuring that we have plenty of good foster families," said Governor O'Malley. "We are serious about 1,000 by 10. Maryland can gain an additional 1,000 foster homes by the year 2010, and I am convinced that we will."

"We will engage businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith organizations and other groups around this issue," said Brenda Donald, Department of Human Resources Secretary. "We need organizations to make information readily available to their employees, and to support foster parenting in the workplace by hosting workshops and information sessions on the topic and by providing supports such as flexible work hours for employees who become foster parents."

Maryland is committed to giving foster parents the resources they need to serve children. Two years ago, foster parents received a monthly stipend of \$535 for each child in regular foster homes. The state has increased that, and with this Administration's increase in July 2007, the monthly stipend is now \$735. Other supports to foster parents include training, childcare assistance, and respite care.

"There are many reasons for people to consider foster parenting," commented Lieutenant Governor Brown. "When we strengthen our children, we strengthen our communities, our towns, our counties and our state. Governor O'Malley and I are committed to working with Secretary Donald and her staff, the Maryland Foster Parents Association, the various business and non-profit communities. We will all benefit from the success of 1000 by 10."

January 17, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces Critical Reforms to the Department of Juvenile Services

Makes Historic Investment to Improve Public Safety; Dedicates \$200 Million for the Construction of Four New Smaller, More Secure Facilities for Youth

BALTIMORE, MD (January 18, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, Department of Juvenile Services Secretary Donald DeVore, and other local elected officials, today announced the allocation of \$200 million for the construction of two new treatment facilities and two new detention centers for the Department of Juvenile Services.

This announcement comes one week after Governor O'Malley announced his continuing effort to improve public safety by allocating \$1 million in the FY 2009 budget for the purchase of GPS Electronic Monitoring equipment to monitor, track, and supervise 200 of the State's most at-risk juvenile offenders.

"Maryland has an obligation to provide opportunities for treatment that works and to ensure the safety of our youth," said Governor O'Malley. "This has been a monumental year for the Department of Juvenile Services and I am proud to announce the allocation of \$200 million to construct smaller, more secure facilities, taking us one step further to ensuring better care for our children most in need," said Governor O'Malley.

"In the last several years, Maryland has lost local capacity to provide treatment services for its youth," said Secretary DeVore. "This capital plan provides the first and most crucial step in the reformation of our system. We must create the ability to treat more of Maryland's youth here in Maryland. We must create the Maryland Model where detention, treatment, and community services are delivered in the most effective way."

Currently, the State only has one facility, the Victor Cullen Center, located in Frederick County, to house and treat youth who have been ordered by the Court to be placed in a secure residential treatment facility. Due to the limited capacity, the Department of Juvenile Services is forced to send youth out-of-state for treatment and supervision. This practice is costly and ineffective. Studies show that the most successful treatment methods involve the families and communities of these youth. With the newly allocated funds, two treatment facilities, with 48 beds each, will provide the resources needed to treat youth in their own community. The new, smaller facilities will provide more focused treatment and supervision.

In addition, two additional detention centers, with a 48 bed capacity each, will be constructed to replace the old structures that plague the Department of Juvenile Services with continuing safety challenges. "The existing facilities were not designed with the standards and practices used by Juvenile Service agencies throughout the United States to provide good lines of sight, efficient supervision and proper treatment of youth," stated Secretary DeVore.

Facilities will be strategically located throughout the State to provide a continuum of care within the youths' communities, providing in-state placements for youth that will enable family involvement and ensure public safety.

For years, the Department of Juvenile Services was a struggling state agency, but last year, under Governor O'Malley's and Secretary DeVore's leadership, the Department began the long needed reform by:

- Opening the Victor Cullen Academy, the first new state-run committed program in 25 years;
- Reducing the number of youth in pending placement status, lingering for months without the right services or credit toward release; and

- Joining the fight against violence in Baltimore City by:
 - Partnering with the health department to expand the intensive intervention program, Operation Safe Kids; and
 - Partnering with the police department to identify youth who are a risk to themselves and others.

"Governor O'Malley's announcement today that he will reverse former Governor Ehrlich's plan to combine Baltimore County and Baltimore City into one juvenile justice region is welcome news to families in Baltimore County," stated Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "Having a smaller, more secure and effective juvenile facility for youthful offenders in Baltimore County will be a much more effective way to provide young people who face significant challenges with the services they need."

January 18, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Introduces 2008 Legislative Agenda

Public Safety, Protecting Maryland Families Top O'Malley's Agenda; Legislation to Make Government Work Again, Protect Homeowners from Foreclosure;

Initiatives to Improve Public Safety; Sustainable Energy and Environmental Policies Introduced

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 21, 2008) – Just days after introducing his FY 2009 budget that restrains spending growth while providing record funding for K-12 public education and school construction, Governor Martin O'Malley today unveiled his 2008 legislative agenda to improve public safety in every region of our State and help protect Maryland's working families.

Governor O'Malley's legislative agenda includes a number of public safety initiatives, including the expansion of DNA sampling for violent offenses, a comprehensive proposal to address the mortgage foreclosure crisis confronting families across Maryland, and lays the groundwork for a sustainable long-term environmental and energy policy for our State. In addition, Governor O'Malley is proposing measures to improve life-long learning opportunities for Maryland's workforce, and provide local jurisdictions more flexibility to plan for economic development projects. Governor O'Malley is also sponsoring legislation to improve State services for our veterans who have courageously served our nation abroad.

"Our legislative agenda, like the priorities we presented in our proposed budget, is focused on improving our quality of life in Maryland, protecting Maryland's families, and improving public safety and public education in every region of our State," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "We look forward to working with the General Assembly to address the critical challenges facing our families today, and at the same time working to ensure a more sustainable future for our children tomorrow."

Governor O'Malley, with Lieutenant Anthony Brown, introduced 18 bills today that would specifically:

1. Expand Maryland's DNA database to aid law enforcement officers;
2. Allow critical information-sharing to help reform juvenile justice system;
3. Promote safety on our roadways, particularly for our youngest drivers;
4. Promote homeland security by divesting pension assets from companies that do business with Iran;
5. Comprehensive reform of the regulation of the mortgage industry to protect homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes;
6. Provide access to services for our vulnerable returning veterans;
7. Improve the State's information technology systems by creating a coordinating Department of Information Technology;
8. Develop a sustainable energy policy to address conservation, energy efficiency, and make progress in meeting our long-term needs;
9. Require new State buildings and schools to meet Green Building standards;
10. Implement the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund to protect our most precious natural resource;
11. Strengthen Critical Area laws to curb development in environmentally-sensitive areas (bill will not be introduced today);
12. Promote economic development and protect the environment by encouraging Transit Oriented

Development.

13. Enhance the State's ability to take advantage of the economic opportunities presented by BRAC;
14. Better integrate our adult education and workforce development programs to allow more Marylanders to enter the workforce.

"This legislative package represents modest and responsible steps our Administration can take to deliver on its promise to strengthen our middle class, improve public safety and education and increase opportunities around the State," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "I am proud to work closely with Governor O'Malley and legislature to win approval for these common sense measures to improve the quality of life we enjoy in Maryland."

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety is the foundation of the quality of life we enjoy in Maryland, and it is the primary responsibility of any government to ensure the safety of its citizens. In his first year in office, Governor O'Malley closed Maryland's most troubled and violent prison – the Maryland House of Correction. The Governor's proposed budget for FY 2009 includes funding to increase community supervision and surveillance of high risk juvenile offenders through the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, and provides historic funding levels to begin the overhaul of detention and treatment facilities for the State's juvenile services.

Expansion of Maryland's DNA Database

The O'Malley-Brown Administration is serious about apprehending, convicting and keeping violent criminals in prison and off our streets. The protection of the public is the most important responsibility government has, and the O'Malley-Brown Administration is taking steps to improve the safety of our citizens in every community of our State.

To further increase the effectiveness of our law enforcement officials to resolve open cases, Governor O'Malley is introducing legislation to require the collection of a DNA sample from offenders charged with a crime of violence or burglary at the time of their arrest. This evolution in Maryland's DNA law is necessary to significantly decrease violent crime in our neighborhoods.

By expanding Maryland's DNA Database, law enforcement will be able to more efficiently resolve open criminal investigations, pursue repeat offenders and save valuable time pursuing false leads by effectively eliminating suspects from ongoing investigations. It is estimated that by adding the arrestees of violent crimes and burglaries to the State's current DNA database, we will add approximately 31,000 samples to our database per year. DNA is a powerful tool for state and local law enforcement, and the requested \$1.7 million per year required to improve our efforts will pay significant dividends. Governor O'Malley's legislation is modeled after Virginia's successful DNA program, enabling Maryland to join 11 other states who currently collect DNA from violent crime suspects at the time of arrest.

Last year, the Maryland State Police under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, was successful in closing a backlog of more than 24,000 DNA samples. The DNA samples had been collected from criminals, but were not processed or entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Combined DNA Index System, where they could be accessed by federal, state, and local law enforcement officials to solve crimes.

Through the creation of DNA Stat, the O'Malley-Brown Administration eliminated this backlog, and our DNA-database is now fully functioning as an effective crime prevention tool. Crucial positions in the crime lab that had been vacant and unfunded for years have been filled, and \$800,000 has been spent to fund long-term equipment needs. In addition, 4,682 new samples have been collected from convicted offenders and 97% of the Division of Corrections' inmates who owed samples were collected. As a result, the number of DNA matches (or "hits") increased by 51% in 2007 from 2006, with a total of 287 hits.

This increase in DNA hits has assisted local and state police in apprehending many violent criminals. In Baltimore County, 24 rape cases were cleared because of DNA matches, leading to the arrest or charge of 15 suspects. In Montgomery County, when the DNA profile of a convicted offender matched a profile of a 1995 rape, the identification of the perpetrator was verified and an arrest warrant has been issued. Howard County, Prince George's County and Baltimore City have also resolved open crimes as a result of the enhanced DNA Database.

Progress in Juvenile Justice System

Governor O'Malley is introducing legislation to allow critical information-sharing between the Department of Juvenile Services and the Office of Parole and Probation to continue the much needed reform of our juvenile justice system. By providing Parole and Probation information regarding the juvenile dispositions of prospective parolees and probationers, more accurate risk assessment and treatment programs can be created, decreasing the percentage of recidivism while increasing the monitoring of the most dangerous of the convicted felons who have returned to our communities.

Chronic problems within our Juvenile Justice system, though well-documented, have gone unaddressed for decades. Under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, Maryland is beginning to see real reform and improvement in the way we address the problems of juvenile crime. This past year, swift action resulted in the closing of one Juvenile Detention facility after the death of a resident. A new facility was also opened in Frederick County, which is smaller and better suited to assist the children who are detained at that location. Recently, plans were announced to build a state of the art juvenile facility on the site of the old Hickey School in Baltimore County in addition to facilities in Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties, better enabling the treatment and care of troubled youth.

Authorizing Speed Cameras in Local Jurisdictions and Highway Work Zones

Speeding motorists pose an alarming threat to public safety in Maryland, especially in school zones, residential communities, and highway work zones. In 2006, 13 people were killed and more than 1,000 people injured in work zones alone in the State. Much of the problem can be attributed to vehicles traveling at speeds far in excess of posted speed limits, endangering the lives of pedestrians and fellow motorists.

Working with the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League, the O'Malley-Brown Administration will sponsor legislation to authorize local jurisdictions to use speed monitoring systems to identify and issue civil citations to drivers who are recorded driving more than 10 miles per hour (mph) over the posted speed limit. The placement of speed cameras will be limited to school zones and residential streets with speed limits of 45 mph or less. The speed camera requirements will be similar to those in Montgomery County, which has already implemented a successful speed camera program. In addition, the legislation will authorize the Maryland Department of Transportation to use speed camera systems in work zones on expressways and controlled access highways where the speed limit is 45 mph or higher. In all cases, local and State authorities must issue warnings for the first 12 months of their speed camera programs prior to issuing civil citations to motorists.

Divestiture from Iran

In addition to their commitment to improve public safety for the State, the O'Malley-Brown Administration works on many fronts to improve homeland security and protect Marylanders against terrorism threats to their safety. The O'Malley-Brown Administration also recognizes its obligation to protect against the financial risks of allowing State investment dollars to be connected in any way to terrorist-related activity, including supporting, directly or indirectly, terrorism or related activities that will undermine efforts to keep Marylanders safe.

Last year, through a law passed with overwhelming support from both the Administration and the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees of the State's Retirement and Pension System began divesting from companies doing business in Sudan because of the risks posed by the ongoing genocide and other atrocities in Darfur. Toward the same end, the Administration is introducing a bill that directs the Board of Trustees to begin divesting from foreign companies with substantial investments in Iran's petroleum-energy sector.

Both the United States and the United Nations have called for economic sanctions against Iran to exert pressure on its government to suspend uranium-enrichment and all activities related to sponsoring terrorism. Despite these measures, some companies have continued to invest in Iran's petroleum-energy sector and are themselves subject to sanctions under the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, renewed most recently in 2006. The Administration is concerned that investing in these publicly traded companies doing business in Iran puts the national security of the country, and the retirement and pensions of State employees, at substantial financial risk.

This bill, therefore, directs the Board of Trustees, pursuant to its fiduciary responsibilities, to divest those accounts over which it exercises full control from companies with over \$20 million invested in Iran's petroleum-energy sector. Before divesting, the Board of Trustees may offer companies the opportunity to stop doing business in Iran, and the total divestment cannot affect more than 1/2 of 1% of the system's assets.

In enacting this bill, Maryland would join California, Florida, Michigan and a growing number of other states across the country taking similar action, both to protect their retirement systems from financial risk and to ensure that American dollars are not used to support State-sponsored terrorism.

PROTECTING MARYLAND FAMILIES

Helping Maryland Families Keep Their Homes through the Sub-prime Mortgage Crisis

Governor O'Malley understands that homeownership is the cornerstone of the American dream and the building block of a stronger and growing middle class. This summer, the O'Malley-Brown Administration appointed the Maryland Homeownership Preservation Task Force in response to rising default and foreclosure rates in Maryland. The Task Force developed an action plan to address escalating foreclosure rates and preserve homeownership. Based on the work of the Task Force, the Administration will introduce a package of bills that will help those families at risk of foreclosure, and create greater protections for future homeowners. The legislative package includes bills that will:

- Improve the regulation of mortgage industry professionals and reform lending practices by:
 - Banning pre-payment penalties for sub prime loans;
 - Assuring a borrower's ability to repay a loan and verify sources of income; and
 - Increasing the mortgage licensing requirements, including the surety bond requirement for mortgage lender licensees and institute a minimum net worth requirement.
- Create a criminal mortgage fraud statute that covers all potential actors engaged in mortgage fraud.
- Modify the Protection for Homeowners in Foreclosure Act (PHIFA), which was passed in 2005, by banning the conveyance of real property in the foreclosure rescue context.
- Reform the foreclosure process by:
 - Requiring a lender to wait 90 days after default before filing the foreclosure action;
 - Sending a uniform Notice of Intent to Foreclose to the homeowner 45 days prior to filing an action; and
 - Requiring personal service to notify a homeowner of impending foreclosure and require that a sale may not occur for 45 days after service.
- Reform lending practices in Maryland by:
 - Tracking rates of default and foreclosure of mortgage industry professionals; and
 - Strengthening the experience requirement to obtain a license.

These initiatives will also serve as a reminder for those in the mortgage industry that we will not stand by while Maryland's middle class families fall victim to irresponsible, deceptive, and predatory

lending practices.

Veterans' Behavioral Health

Among the highest priorities of the O'Malley-Brown Administration is its commitment to the State's almost half million veterans of the nation's armed forces. These veterans deserve the support, opportunities, and services necessary to make their transitions from military to civilian life as smooth and successful as possible. To this end, the Administration is introducing legislation to ensure that the State's veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan receive the behavioral health services they may need in the wake of their active service in these combat zones.

Maryland has over 10,000 veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, with at least 5,000 more projected to return by the end of the year. The psychological trauma of the war on terror, the counterinsurgency and the urban battlefield has put these veterans at particular risk of Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome and related conditions. If left untreated, these conditions could compromise the veterans' successful readjustment to the stresses of civilian life as they return home to work and families. It is estimated that roughly half of these veterans and their families will require support to address behavioral health problems, and the program established by the Administration's bill will make sure they receive the help they need.

First, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the program will help our veterans statewide coordinate and obtain access to services available through the federal government and the State's public mental health system. Second, it will offer crisis services for severe problems that could become emergencies until longer-term services can be obtained. Third, in rural areas where existing federal and state services may be inadequate or inaccessible, the program will provide short-term direct care services. The bill will also create a Veterans' Behavioral Health Advisory Board to identify gaps in services and make recommendations for further steps to ensure that all Maryland veterans and their families receive the support and services they require and deserve.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK

StateStat is a performance-measurement and management tool implemented by Governor Martin O'Malley to make our state government more accountable and more efficient. Modeled after the award-winning CitiStat program that he developed as Mayor of Baltimore City, Governor O'Malley is using this data-based management approach to make Maryland's government work again for the people of our State.

Department of Information Technology

Governor O'Malley will introduce legislation creating a new Department of Information Technology, which will have policy responsibility for information technology matters across State agencies. Advances in technology have enabled vast amounts of data and useful information to become immediately available to residents of our State. Because information technology impacts the ability of every State agency to serve the public, it is important that an agency exists to provide oversight authority over large information technology expenditures, and to centralize common information technology functions and assets. It is also important that these functions be consolidated into one department and elevated to a level that reports directly to the Governor.

The new Department of Information Technology will also assume the responsibility for coordinating, purchasing and managing all telecommunications devices and systems utilized by State agencies. The Secretary of Information Technology will lead chief information officers of all agencies to streamline business processes across State government, achieve cost-savings through economies of scale, and coordinate initiatives related to security, disaster recovery and continuity of operations.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY

Maryland is facing significant electricity challenges that have real world impacts on its economy, environmental quality, and overall standard of living. Over the past few years, Maryland has experienced dramatic hikes in electricity rates, coupled with a warning that electricity shortages could cause rolling blackouts as early as 2011. At the same time, global warming and other environmental challenges are driving a transition from fossil fuels to more sustainable, clean energy.

In July 2007, Governor O'Malley announced the **EmPOWER Maryland** goal of reducing the State's electricity consumption 15% by 2015, one of the nation's most ambitious energy efficiency targets. Also in July, the Administration held the Governor's Energy Summit, which brought together businesses, utilities, energy companies, environmental groups, energy experts, government agencies, and political leaders to discuss and develop solutions to lower energy bills while providing clean and reliable electricity to all Marylanders. At the request of the Governor, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) developed the Maryland Strategic Electricity Plan to assist the Governor and General Assembly in crafting a sustainable energy policy for Maryland's future.

To mitigate the long-term increase in electricity bills and keep the lights on in the face of Maryland's projected electricity shortage, the O'Malley-Brown Administration is introducing six energy initiatives.

Create a Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund

The O'Malley-Brown Administration will introduce legislation to create the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund. This fund will allow Maryland to take control of its energy future by investing in energy efficiency technology, stimulating Maryland's emerging clean energy industry, promoting programs to reduce electricity consumption by low and moderate income customers, and sponsoring research on technologies to reduce Maryland's vulnerability to climate change.

The Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund will not rely on general funds or a surcharge on ratepayers. Rather, the fund will be financed through the upcoming sale of carbon allowances to power plants as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which Maryland joined as part of the 2006 Healthy Air Act. The fund will allow MEA to provide services to traditionally underserved markets, such as providing window air conditioner and refrigerator exchange programs to low-income residents and providing below-market financing to encourage energy efficiency investments by homeowners and small businesses.

Codify the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Initiative

The Administration proposes to codify Governor O'Malley's **EmPOWER Maryland** initiative which challenges Maryland to reduce statewide per-capita consumption and peak demand by 15% by 2015. This ambitious goal can be achieved through greater use of proven technologies, such as programmable thermostats and compact fluorescent light bulbs. Utilities will have to do their part by establishing a range of programs to reduce household bills, such as rebates for the purchase of ENERGY STAR appliances, incentives for home energy improvements, and voluntary payments for the use of interruptible load devices on air conditioners.

When EmPOWER Maryland is successfully implemented, it will:

- Save Marylanders \$1.9 billion by 2015 and over \$4 billion by 2020;
- Avoid using 25 billion kWh of electricity, which is enough to power three-fourths of Maryland's homes in 2015; and
- Prevent the need to build at least two new large power plants.

Establish Green Building Standards for State Buildings and Public Schools

During the 2007 Session, the General Assembly passed legislation creating the Maryland Green Building Council for the purpose of developing recommendations for the renovation and construction of energy efficient and resource friendly public buildings.

Based on the Council's recommendations and working with legislators – including Senator Frosh and Delegates Morhaim and Bronrott – the Administration will introduce legislation to promote green building technologies in State buildings and public schools. Maryland will lead by example by

requiring that all new and significantly renovated State buildings over 7,500 square feet meet the LEED Silver green building standard. To realize lower energy costs and encourage more productive students, the legislation will also require all new public schools to meet the LEED Silver green building standard.

Residential and commercial buildings make up 40 percent of total U.S. energy consumption, which makes improving the energy efficiency of buildings essential to achieving Maryland's long term goals. In addition to greater energy efficiency, green buildings promote more natural light, better air quality and contribute to improved occupant health, comfort and productivity.

Enhance the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

To meet our growing electricity needs, Maryland must invest in new generation. By investing in renewable energy, Maryland can increase its supply of clean electricity and help transition to a more sustainable, secure economy. The O'Malley-Brown Administration will introduce legislation to increase renewable and clean energy generation by:

- Increasing the RPS requirement from 9.5% to 20% by 2022, while maintaining the current 2% level for solar;
- Limiting the geographic scope to generation resources located within the PJM to promote generation on Maryland's grid; and
- Increasing the Alternative Compliance Payment (penalty for failure to comply) to ensure that the RPS will be effective.

Solar and Geothermal Tax and Grant Incentives

Maryland's tax system imposes a significant barrier to residents who want to invest in clean energy systems for their homes. The sales tax on solar systems alone will cancel much of the State grant used to encourage Marylanders to invest in solar power. In addition, the current grants provided by MEA for solar energy and geothermal heating are too low to induce significant household participation. The O'Malley-Brown Administration will propose various tax and grant changes for both solar and geothermal systems to stimulate investment in clean energy, increase supply, and promote energy security through the following measures:

- Exempt all solar and geothermal systems from the sales tax and State and local property tax valuation;
- Increase the State grant to \$2,500 per kilowatt installed with a cap of \$10,000, for solar (photovoltaic) energy systems;
- Increase the grant to \$3,000 or 30% of system cost, for solar water heaters; and
- Increase the grant up to \$1,000 per ton with a cap of \$3,000 for residential customers and \$10,000 for non-residential systems, for geothermal heating systems.

Authorize the Maryland Environmental Service to Promote Energy Projects

To facilitate new electricity generation, legislation will be introduced on behalf of the Maryland Environmental Services to give MES greater authority to promote energy projects in Maryland. By authorizing MES to provide energy projects and services, Maryland will have a powerful, new tool to help get energy projects off the drawing board and onto the grid to promote affordable, reliable, and clean energy.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY – A HEALTHIER CHESAPEAKE BAY

The Chesapeake Bay is Maryland's most precious resource. Yet despite past efforts, much remains to

be done to protect our Bay. The FY 2009 budget provides \$381 million to fund statewide programs that are directly related to the restoration of the Bay and its tributaries, and the O'Malley-Brown Administration has launched BayStat, which tracks efforts of many State agencies to improve the health of the Bay. The Administration has also invested in important agricultural programs, such as cover crops, to sustain agriculture and preserve open space in a way that protects the Bay. Last Session, the Administration and the General Assembly took significant steps to protect the Bay and Maryland's environment by passing legislation related to clean cars, enhanced stormwater management, and oyster restoration. The O'Malley-Brown Administration is introducing three initiatives to continue their commitment to protect and clean up the Chesapeake Bay and protect Maryland's environment.

Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund

Building on the historic work of the Governor and the General Assembly last year in creating an annual \$50 million Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund, the O'Malley-Brown Administration will introduce legislation that provides a mechanism for spending these Bay cleanup dollars in the most effective scientifically-informed manner, with maximum accountability.

The Administration will propose that Trust Fund dollars be spent on projects designed to prevent runoff that indirectly finds its way into the Bay through such activities as stormwater runoff and agricultural practices, which accounts for a significant portion of the pollutants that enter the Bay and its tributaries. Led by the participants in the Administration's BayStat accountability program, allocations for cleanup projects will be made on a primarily competitive basis following careful review of which projects provide the most cost-effective water quality benefits to the Chesapeake Bay. To aid their decision-making, the group will be guided by a scientific panel that will advise the Baystat group on cost efficiency and effectiveness estimates.

Protecting the Bay from the Effects of Ill-Advised Growth and Reducing the Effects of Climate Change

The O'Malley-Brown Administration will take steps to strengthen the Critical Areas law, a groundbreaking piece of legislation when it was enacted in 1984, in an effort to preserve and restore the water quality of the Bay, maintain valued wildlife habitat and accommodate growth. In the intervening years, we have all seen the detrimental effects that unrestrained and ill-advised growth in environmentally sensitive areas near the Bay can have on the health of our State's most treasured resource. Among other necessary measures, the Administration believes actions should be taken to stop unrestrained growth near the water, to stop illegal building in the Critical Area, and to require offenders to restore the harm they inflict on the Bay. Giving the Critical Areas Commission the tools they need to more effectively deal with these issues is a high priority of the Administration.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration is committed to taking strong action to reduce the effects that global climate change is having on our State's shorelines and environment. Throughout the 2008 legislative session, the Administration will work with the General Assembly to address the interim recommendations of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change.

Transit Oriented Development

Governor O'Malley will introduce legislation to permit the State to aggressively promote transit-oriented development (TOD) as a smart growth tool to revitalize communities and curb sprawl. The bill codifies TOD as a statewide transportation purpose and provides the legal framework and authority to advance TOD projects around the State. It will allow the Department of Transportation to designate TOD projects and use its property and resources to support mixed use and pedestrian friendly development around existing and future transit stations.

Transit-oriented development is a development style that leverages transit stations as the foundation for vibrant communities with a dense mix of commercial, residential, and retail development. By clustering development around transit sites, TOD maximizes the State's investment in transit by promoting increased ridership and enhanced opportunities for pedestrian and bicycle mobility. The benefits of TOD include easing congestion on our roadways, curbing of green house gas emissions, reducing pollution, and providing a viable alternative to sprawl.

Maryland has all the building blocks for a nationally-recognized TOD program, with 75 rail transit stations across the State, including Metro stations in the Washington, D.C. area. Additional stations are being planned for the MARC system, as well as for three transit lines being designed: the Red Line, the Purple Line and the Corridor Cities Transitway.

PROMOTING JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The O'Malley-Brown Administration understands that an educated workforce is the key to economic growth. The FY 2009 budget provides historic levels of K-12 education funding, over \$330 million in school construction funds, and record levels of funding for our institutions of higher education. For the first time, Maryland has a dedicated source of funding for higher education, the Higher Education Investment Fund. The FY 2009 uses that Fund to freeze in-State undergraduate tuition for the third year in a row; provide access to higher education for an additional 1,600 students; fund critical workforce development initiatives; and help promote academic success for low-income students, first generation college students, and minority students.

In addition, the budget contains record levels of operating and capital funds for Maryland's community colleges, in support of their role in helping the State meet its workforce needs. In order to build on these opportunities, the Administration will be introducing two bills.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Redevelopment Act

In the 2007 Session, the O'Malley-Brown Administration introduced legislation to create the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Subcabinet to coordinate the planning and financial resources of State government to support the missions of military installations expanding under BRAC. Between now and 2011, Maryland anticipates the arrival of as many as 60,000 new jobs and 28,000 new households as a result of the BRAC Commission recommendations. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Brown, the BRAC Subcabinet has worked throughout the past year to prepare Maryland's action plan to support of our Nation's defense and security efforts. The BRAC Subcabinet worked extensively with local, State and federal agencies, the private sector and the public to develop strategies to accommodate the new employers, workers and families that will relocate to Maryland in the coming years.

BRAC Community Enhancement Act

Based on the recommendations of the BRAC Subcabinet, the O'Malley-Brown Administration will introduce the ***BRAC Community Enhancement Act***. This legislation will include two initiatives to leverage State and private sector investments critical to support the community and transportation infrastructure necessary to accommodate BRAC-related growth.

BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zones

The legislation will establish BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zones ("BRAC Zones") to provide local jurisdictions with incentives to enhance public infrastructure such as streets, utilities and recreation venues in designated revitalization and redevelopment areas. BRAC Zones will also provide BRAC businesses with incentives to locate in targeted areas of the State that are in need of revitalization and redevelopment.

BRAC Zones will accommodate and encourage BRAC-related growth in the State, without contributing to sprawl, by directing the population growth to Priority Funding Areas that are served by public transit and have underutilized capacity in housing, public facilities, and infrastructure. In keeping with these principles of Smart Growth, the BRAC Zones program will provide certain tax incentives to businesses and local governments in the designated BRAC Zones. The business incentives are similar to those offered in Enterprise Zones and will help attract high quality businesses into these areas.

Accommodating Commercial Development on Military Installations

Legislation will also give State and county government greater flexibility to negotiate a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement with private sector entities building commercial developments on military installations. This measure will ensure that the private sector will fairly contribute to the public infrastructure necessary to accommodate the commercial developments planned at Aberdeen Proving Ground and Ft. Meade.

In addition to the **BRAC Community Enhancement Act**, the Administration will propose to expand the uses of the new Higher Education Investment Fund to allow for BRAC-related higher education initiatives administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Governor O'Malley has included \$3 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 budget for workforce training initiatives related to BRAC.

Consolidation of Workforce Development Functions

To better coordinate education efforts, particularly programs for adult learners, and to better coordinate workforce development efforts, legislation is being introduced to transfer the State's adult education and correctional education programs to the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, the State's lead agency on workforce development and job training policies. If Maryland is going to continue to be an economic leader in the country and the world, we need to do a much better job of serving our citizens who currently lack the skills to enter the workforce. The FY 2009 budget includes almost \$50 million for the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Division of Workforce Development to support workforce development programs for young people and adults, dislocated workers, and job services for veterans.

January 21, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Joins Developers, Officials for Harbor Point Groundbreaking

First tenant, Morgan Stanley, to bring up to 900 jobs to City

BALTIMORE, MD (January 22, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Baltimore developers and federal, state and local officials to break ground on Harbor Point, an \$830 million mixed-used waterfront project located between Baltimore's Harbor East and Fells Point communities. The project, which is being developed by Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse and H&S Properties Development Corporation and has been hailed as the final component of the City's waterfront revitalization, will serve as the Baltimore home to leading financial services firm Morgan Stanley, which is expected to bring up to 900 new jobs to Baltimore City over the next decade.

"Today we celebrate a new chapter in Baltimore's renaissance, and new opportunities for Baltimore City and the State," said Governor O'Malley, who has played a significant role in the project since plans for development first began in 2000. "What was once a long vacant and underutilized waterfront property will be transformed into residences, a public park with pedestrian promenades and brand new office space that will yield thousands of well-paying jobs for working Marylanders."

Morgan Stanley's plans to move its business services and technology group to Harbor Point coupled with Legg Mason's new corporate headquarters at Harbor East and T. Rowe Price's addition of 1,400 new jobs at their Owings Mills campus significantly enhances Maryland's growing reputation as a leading financial center and confirms the State's ability to attract and retain world class businesses.

Costing upwards of \$830 million, the 27-acre site on the former Allied Signal plant will include approximately 841,000 square feet of office space; 701,000 square feet of residential space; 183,000 square feet of hotel space and 2,900 parking spaces in a phased development program. Harbor Point will also include 11 acres of open green space and a public waterfront promenade. The project is expected to bring more than 5,600 potential construction jobs to Baltimore and generate more than 3,200 potential permanent jobs for Baltimore city.

In November, Morgan Stanley became Harbor Point's first tenant, announcing that it had signed a lease for 139,000 square feet of space. The first phase of Harbor Point's development will be completed in January of 2010, when Morgan Stanley takes occupancy of its new office space at Thames Street Wharf. The entire 1.8 million square foot Harbor Point redevelopment is scheduled to be completed by 2015.

January 22, 2008

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Swears in Judge Peter B. Krauser as Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 22, 2008) – Governor O'Malley today officially swore in the Honorable Peter B. Krauser Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland. Last year, Governor O'Malley appointed Judge Krauser as Chief Judge to the Court of Special Appeals to replace Chief Judge Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., who has served as Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals since 1996 and who was recently appointed to the Court of Appeals of Maryland.

"Judge Krauser is highly respected in the State's legal system and I am confident that he will lead the Court of Special Appeals with fairness and integrity, and will ensure that the Court of Special Appeals continues to operate in an efficient and productive manner," said Governor O'Malley.

Judge Krauser has been a member of the Court of Special Appeals since 2000. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Krauser served as an appellate attorney with the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice, and as an attorney in private practice. He has also served as President of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington and is the recipient of the Breslau-Goldman Award from that organization. Judge Krauser is a member of the State Judiciary's Civil Law and Procedure Committee. He attended Northwestern University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

The Chief Judge's responsibilities include directing how the three judge panels of the Court of Special Appeals are constituted, when they sit, and what cases they hear. The Chief Judge also must ensure that cases are assigned to the members of the Court so that every judge has an equal amount of work and a variety of cases. Judge Krauser's additional responsibilities will include ruling on motions for injunctions pending appeal, entering orders of the Court, and entering orders to dismiss an appeal or deny a motion to dismiss an appeal.

January 22, 2008

[Additional Press Releases](#)

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Delivers 2008 State of the State Address

Focuses on Protecting Maryland's Priorities – Public Safety, Public Education, and Opportunity

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 23, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today delivered his second annual [State of the State Address](#) to the Maryland General Assembly focusing on the need to protect Maryland's critical priorities – to strengthen and protect our middle class, to protect our commitment to improve public safety and public education in every region of our State, and to protect opportunity for the hard-working families of our State.

"The most important days in life are not always the easy days," said Governor O'Malley in his address. "Time and again we have overcome challenges because of our respect for the dignity of every individual; because of our commitment to the common good; and because we have had the courage to protect our priorities especially when faced with great adversity."

"For these reasons, Maryland has been a strong state," he added. "But the future of our State is very much determined by the strength and the security of the families of Maryland – the hard-working and loving families that we have the honor and responsibility to represent. And today, the vast majority of Maryland's families, like families throughout our country, are finding it harder and harder just to pay their bills and maintain the quality of life that they have worked so hard to achieve."

During his speech, Governor O'Malley focused on public safety outlining a new proposal to expand DNA fingerprinting for violent offenders and reform the Department of Juvenile Services. In his first year in office, Governor O'Malley closed Maryland's most troubled and violent prison – the Maryland House of Correction. The Governor's proposed budget for FY 2009 includes funding to increase community supervision and surveillance of high risk juvenile offenders through the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, and provides historic funding levels to begin the overhaul of detention and treatment facilities for the State's juvenile services. Governor O'Malley is also introducing legislation to require the collection of a DNA fingerprinting from offenders charged with a crime of violence or burglary at the time of their arrest. This evolution in Maryland's DNA law is necessary to significantly decrease violent crime in our neighborhoods.

"One of our highest priorities this year will be to fight back against violent crime – wherever it occurs in Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "One year ago, I shared with you how deeply troubled our State public safety departments were. Over the course of this year, we have begun to make progress in turning this situation around so that our State gets back into the business of supporting local police departments and communities in the fight against violent crime."

Governor O'Malley talked about the need to keep college tuition affordable for Maryland's families. The Governor has proposed a tuition freeze at Maryland's public colleges for the third year in a row to keep college tuition affordable for Maryland families. As a result, people like United States Marine Lance Corporal Will Amos, who has just returned from three tours of duty in Iraq, and who was in attendance for today's address, will attend the University of Maryland, College Park using the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program.

"We can once again hold the line against the rising cost of college tuition," Governor O'Malley said. "Hard-working families in Maryland should be able to afford to send their children to Maryland colleges."

Governor O'Malley also outlined his FY 2009 budget priorities and this year's legislative agenda. Earlier this month, Governor O'Malley unveiled the FY 2009 budget, which grows less than the Spending Affordability Limit set by the General Assembly, while also saving \$739 million in the Rainy Day Fund balance by the close of FY 2009. Governor O'Malley also cut spending by \$550 million – on top of the \$280 million in reductions achieved last July.

The Governor spoke about the need to protect homeownership in Maryland, including his comprehensive proposal to address the mortgage foreclosure crisis confronting families across Maryland. He discussed plans for a sustainable long-term environmental and energy policy for our State. In addition, Governor O'Malley is proposing measures to improve life-long learning opportunities for Maryland's workforce, and provide local jurisdictions more flexibility to plan for economic development projects. Governor O'Malley is also sponsoring legislation to improve State services for our veterans who have courageously served our nation abroad.

Governor O'Malley used the address to discuss accomplishments during his first year in office to make government work again. In his first year in office, Governor O'Malley implemented StateStat, a performance measurement system that makes government more efficient and accountable. Today, 13 different departments participate in performance measured government to improve efficiency and service delivery.

Governor O'Malley stressed the importance of protecting Maryland's most valued treasure – the Chesapeake Bay – and Maryland's environment. In his first year in office, Governor O'Malley implemented several measures to improve the health of the Bay, and to protect the health of Maryland's environment for Maryland's children, including passing the Clean Cars Act, the Stormwater Management Act and creating the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund. In his address, Governor O'Malley asked for support in updating the Critical Areas Law, and support to do more for the health of the Bay with the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund.

"We need to update our Critical Areas Law so massive developments like the Four Seasons project on Kent Island should be prohibited at the first step in the process, not the last," he said. "Last year, we vowed to use open space dollars for the purchase of open space. We started to apply performance measured management to the huge challenge of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay with Baystat. We expanded cover crops to more acreage than ever before while continuing Oyster restoration efforts to help the Bay and watermen. With the creation of the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund we can do even more this year."

He also asked for support of new legislation to promote Transit Oriented Development (TOD), a smart growth tool to revitalize communities and curb sprawl. The bill codifies TOD as a statewide transportation purpose and provides the legal framework and authority to advance TOD projects around the State. It will allow the Department of Transportation to designate TOD projects and use its property and resources to support mixed use and pedestrian friendly development around existing and future transit stations. In addition, Governor O'Malley vowed to take a number of efforts to secure fair and reasonable energy rates while also ensuring an adequate supply for our future.

Governor O'Malley vowed the importance of protecting Maryland's priorities in order to protect Maryland's future.

"I look forward to working with all of you, including members and leaders of the minority party in this chamber, and in local governments around our state, as we face the challenging times ahead," he said.

"We know that Maryland is a stronger state than most. We can get through these tough economic times more quickly than other parts of our country; but only if we can continue to come together to protect the priorities that make us strong. We will take it from here, striving to do all that we can – especially in these difficult times – for the hardworking people we have the privilege to serve and the One Maryland we carry in our hearts."

[[Read the speech](#) - [Listen to audio mp3](#)]

January 23, 2008

[Additional Press Releases](#)

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Urges EPA to Restore Maryland's Right to Reduce Auto Emissions

Washington, D.C. (January 24, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in Washington D.C., to urge Congress to allow Maryland to implement the Clean Cars Act passed last year to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to protect our environment and the Chesapeake Bay.

At the end of the 2007 legislative session, Governor O'Malley signed the Clean Cars Act into law, which implemented stronger emissions regulations for cars sold and registered in Maryland, and created a Clean Car and Energy Policy Task Force. The Clean Cars Act would adopt the stricter automobile emission standards that are currently used by California.

"In Maryland, we have worked hard to protect our natural environment and restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay, but we have tremendous challenges ahead," said Governor O'Malley. "The EPA must allow states like Maryland and California to make choices and create policies that promote sustainability, enhance our quality of life, and protect our natural environment."

The Maryland clean cars law would allow Maryland to join 16 other states, including California, in imposing stricter automobile emission standards on what amounts to 45 percent of the Nation's registered automobiles.

A recent analysis published by the California Air Resources Board indicates that California's standards are 85% more effective than federal CAFE standards alone. The CAFÉ standard, or Corporate Average Fuel Economy standard, is a federal mandate that determines the minimum average miles per gallon for vehicles sold in this country. Analysis results show that if these cleaner cars in the 20 states will reduce 682 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, or equivalent to taking more than 135 million cars off the road. The federal CAFE standards alone would reduce just 367 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions – 85% less effective at reducing the pollution that is worsening global warming.

States that have adopted, or have committed to adopting, California's strict automobile emissions standards are: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Washington.

In addition to testifying before congress today, Governor O'Malley is proposing legislation that would enhance Maryland's Critical Areas Law, so that so massive developments like the Four Seasons project on Kent Island are prohibited at the first step in the process, not the last.

Governor O'Malley is also developing a long-term plan for energy generation, distribution and conservation, to meet the EmPOWER Maryland goal of decreasing energy consumption 15% by 2015 and to reverse the effects of global warming.

In his first year in office, Maryland joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), working with 9 other states to reduce emissions and fight global warming.

January 24, 2008

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Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Highlights School Construction Funding In Prince George's County

Governor and County Executive Johnson Tour Newly Renovated Bladensburg High School; \$20 Million Invested in K-12 Education in Prince George's

BLADENSBURG, MD (January 28, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today, joined by Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson, visited students at the newly renovated Bladensburg High School to highlight school construction funding for Prince George's County.

"We must continue to protect the priorities of the people of Maryland, including protecting investments in public education and school construction," said Governor O'Malley. "Bladensburg High School has been an institution of learning for Maryland's families for over 200 years, and we owe to the students of Bladensburg, and all of our schools, to provide them with updated and modern schools where they can learn."

With the FY 2009 budget's historical \$333 million investment in K-12 education and school construction, Governor O'Malley has allocated over \$20 million in school construction funds for Prince George's County. Additional school construction dollars will be awarded to each county after Wednesday's Board of Public Works meeting.

"We have taken positive proactive steps to build upon the success of our educational system in Prince George's County," said County Executive Johnson. "This substantial investment from the State is essential to maintaining our quality of life in Prince George's while continuing to strengthen the partnership between the State and local governments."

During their visit, Governor O'Malley and County Executive Johnson stopped by the school wellness center which provides a wide array of health services for students, including dental care, an AP biology class, and a nursing class where one student even took the Governor's blood pressure.

January 28, 2008

[Additional Press Releases](#)

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Appoints Alexander Wright, Jr. And Robert Zarnoch To Court Of Special Appeals Of Maryland

Judges will fill at-large vacancies on Maryland's intermediate appellate court

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 28, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today the appointment of Alexander Wright, Jr. and Robert A. Zarnoch to the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland. Judge Wright will fill the vacancy created by the elevation of Judge Joseph F. Murphy Jr. to the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and Mr. Zarnoch will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge James A. Kenney III.

"I am pleased today to announce the appointment of two of the State's great legal minds to the Court of Special Appeals," said Governor O'Malley. "Each has served the State of Maryland honorably in the past, and I am confident that they will continue their outstanding service to the State in these new roles."

Alexander Wright, Jr. is a litigator in private practice at the law firm of Miles and Stockbridge P.C. in Towson, where he chairs the Alternative Dispute Resolution group. His practice focuses on medical malpractice, personal injury, construction, domestic, bankruptcy and labor and employment law. Judge Wright sits on several national panels as an arbitrator, including the National Association of Security Dealers, the American Arbitration Association, the New York Stock Exchange and the National Arbitration Forum. Before entering private practice, he served for almost ten years as a Baltimore County judge, both on the District and Circuit Courts. Judge Wright began his career as an Assistant Public Defender in Baltimore City and worked for thirteen years in the Maryland Attorney General's office, as principal counsel to several state agencies.

Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger said, "Judge Wright's integrity, leadership, and passion for discerning the truth will make him an exceptional addition to the Court of Special Appeals."

Robert A. Zarnoch has been the Attorney General's Chief Counsel for Legislation and Counsel to the Maryland General Assembly since 1979. In his more than quarter-century of service to the General Assembly, Mr. Zarnoch has interpreted and reviewed the constitutionality of thousands of bills and worked with hundreds of legislators. He has argued 24 times before the Maryland Court of Appeals and litigated more than 20 First Amendment cases. Mr. Zarnoch has drafted significant pieces of legislation and authored over 80 published Attorney General's opinions. Mr. Zarnoch has taught extensively at the University of Maryland and University of Baltimore Law Schools and has written numerous articles in the Maryland Bar Journal and the Daily Record.

"Bob Zarnoch's knowledge of Maryland law and legislative history is unsurpassed in the State," said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller. "Over the years, his counsel has been invaluable to the legislature, and I am confident that he will serve the State with similar distinction as a judge," said Speaker of the House of Delegates Michael E. Busch.

The two candidates were selected from a list of eight nominees selected by the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission. More information on the appellate courts' judicial nominating commission established by Governor O'Malley can be found at www.gov.state.md.us/executiveorders/01.07.08JudicialNominatingCommissions.pdf.

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Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Announces \$11 Million To Assist Baltimore City In Upgrading Broening Highway

Funds Will Improve Access to the Port of Baltimore's Busy Marine Terminals

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 29, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced \$11 million to assist Baltimore City in upgrading Broening Highway, the road that serves as the gateway to the Port of Baltimore. This economic development project will improve access to the Port of Baltimore's busy freight hubs, including Dundalk and Seagirt Marine Terminals. Every day, nearly 2,000 trucks travel along Broening Highway to these marine terminals to take products arriving by ship to consumers throughout Maryland and beyond. The typical container ship at the Port of Baltimore carries 3,000 containers. Those containers must leave the Port by one of two routes – by truck or by train.

"The Port of Baltimore is the closest inland Port on the East Coast, which makes it a big draw for national and international shippers," said Governor O'Malley. "You can reach two thirds of the nation's population overnight. With the vast majority of these containers leaving the Port by truck, investing in our highway network is crucial to Maryland's economic development. Broening Highway is the life line that connects The Port of Baltimore to the Baltimore Beltway, I-95, and links to the mid-west and the entire Eastern Seaboard."

The State Highway Administration will be working closely with Baltimore City, the Port of Baltimore, the Maryland Transportation Authority, and Baltimore County to move forward with plans to upgrade this key access road to the Port. Preliminary plans include focusing on the entrances to the two marine terminals and rebuilding Broening Highway from its base layer up.

"The Port of Baltimore is a deep-water port in a key location, and it remains a vital economic engine for the City," said Baltimore City Mayor Sheila Dixon. "Ensuring a smooth, steady flow of traffic from the Port to I-95 will help the Port and the industries that rely on it to thrive well into the future. I appreciate Governor O'Malley's commitment to the continued success of the Port of Baltimore."

Governor O'Malley has added this project to the six-year capital transportation program covering the years FY 2008-FY 2013. The six-year program, known as the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), shows statewide investment in transportation will total \$10.6 billion. Transportation in Maryland is funded through dedicated revenue sources flowing into the independent Transportation Trust Fund, separate from the state's General Fund.

An electronic version of the complete FY 2008-2013 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program will be available later today at the following link:

http://www.mdot.state.md.us/Planning/Plans%20Programs%20Reports/Programs/CTP%2008-13/Cover_ToC/Table%20of%20Contents

January 29, 2008

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Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley Joins Regional Leaders In The Launch Of The Chesapeake Crescent Initiative

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 29, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, Washington D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer at the U.S. Capital in Washington D.C. to launch the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative, a unique partnership designed to increase the region's global competitiveness.

"The Chesapeake Crescent Initiative is an innovative approach that will help us work more closely with our neighbors to identify regional solutions to some of our shared challenges," said Governor O'Malley. "By pooling our resources, we hope to be able to find long-term solutions to some of the pressing environmental, transportation and economic challenges that we all face separately every day."

The initiative, which is considered the first of its kind in the nation, is focused on integrating the valuable resources of the region, addressing environmental challenges, harnessing intellectual and entrepreneurial assets, and creating effective transportation options.

"The Greater Washington region is home to a tremendous number of resources, first-rate institutions of higher learning, prominent businesses, an incredibly well educated populace, a diverse economy, the federal government and its multitude of world-class science and research facilities," said Congressman Hoyer. "To maximize these assets, capitalize on obvious synergies, and effectively compete in the global economy, the region's public and private sector leaders must work together across jurisdictional boundaries. That is the goal of the Chesapeake Crescent. I am a strong supporter of this exciting collaboration, and I look forward to working together as we look to tackle the tough issues that lie ahead."

"In the 21st Century economy, we know that regions, not artificial political boundaries, compete for talent and capital," Virginia Governor, Tim Kaine said. "The Crescent is an important effort to leverage our world-class research strengths, knowledgeable workforce, and robust business climate to deliver high-paying jobs for generations to follow."

"To build a truly globally competitive region, we have to think across jurisdictional lines when it comes to building a more green and sustainable economy, driving innovation and investment and making our transportation network more efficient and effective," said D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty.

January 29, 2008

[Additional Press Releases](#)

Press Release - Office of the Governor

Governor O'Malley, Board Of Public Works Hold "Hope-A-Thon" For School Construction Funding

ANNAPOLIS, MD (January 30, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined by Treasurer Nancy Kopp and Comptroller Peter Franchot, today met with Superintendents from school systems across the state at the annual "Hope-a-thon" for the allocation of the remaining public school construction funding. Governor O'Malley has proposed \$333 million in school construction funding for FY 2009, another record year of public school construction funding.

The "hope-a-thon," formerly known as the "beg-a-thon" was implemented by the Board of Public Works to allow school superintendents to have a more meaningful conversation with the Board of Public Works on their jurisdiction's key school priorities.

"We must continue to protect the priorities of the people of Maryland, including investments in public education and school construction," said Governor O'Malley. "We have made another year of record investments in public school construction and we owe it to the students across our State updated and modern buildings for them to learn."

The superintendents of school systems asked for portions of the remaining unallocated \$108 million of the total \$333 million in state aid for public school construction funding. The recommendations are made by the State's Interagency Committee on School Construction.

Building on a \$400 million investment last year for school construction, Governor O'Malley's FY 2009 capital budget includes \$333 million for new schools and school renovation projects in local jurisdictions. The budget includes an increase of \$184 million for K-12 Education, including an unprecedented \$75.8 million for the Geographic Cost of Education Index. The FY 2009 budget also invests \$34.4 million in Supplemental Grants to ensure all jurisdictions receive an increase over last year, \$55.3 million to increase Teacher Retirement payments to \$622 million, and \$2 million for the new SEED school.

"I am very pleased that Governor O'Malley is replacing the so called school renovation and construction 'beg-a-thon' with a more dignified and meaningful process," said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. "By meeting with school superintendents, the Board of Public Works will have greater opportunity to understand the needs of the each school system."

"The City of Baltimore has made a commitment to put every child and every teacher in a safe, comfortable, modern classroom. We need the State's help to fulfill that commitment, and I look forward to this opportunity to share our funding needs with State leaders and work together to get our kids the schools they deserve," said Mayor Sheila Dixon.

"All counties are hopeful that their school construction and renovation needs will be considered and funded based on their merit," said Frederick County Commissioner Jan H. Gardner. "A 'Hope-a-thon' gives all of us advocating for school construction a positive and productive way to make our case."

"I appreciate Governor O'Malley listening to us on this issue; the Governor knows first hand that the 'beg-a-thon' is a tradition whose time is up," said County Executive Ken Ulman. "Having the school superintendents attend alone, allows time for a real substantive discussion of each county's school needs."

"I deeply appreciate Governor O'Malley's new approach to the issue of school funding before the Board of Public Works," said Wicomico County Executive Rick Pollitt. "With a sober and well-reasoned presentation as the alternative to 'quickly in and quickly out,' communication will be greatly improved, the Board will gain a greater understanding of local needs, and our chances for success should improve. This is the way government should work and Governor O'Malley is on the right track."

January 30, 2008

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