Governor O’Malley Announces Purple Line Locally Preferred Alternative

‘Next Generation’ of Transit Connects Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties

NEW CARROLLTON, MD (August 4, 2009) - Governor Martin O’Malley announced today that the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the Purple Line will consist of a light rail line operating along a 16-mile east-west corridor from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George’s County. The project will now be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under its “New Starts” process as the State seeks the approval to begin preliminary engineering and competes for federal funding for the $1.5 billion project.

“The Purple Line will create a lasting legacy by providing more transportation capacity in a way that protects and preserves existing communities,” said Governor O’Malley. “This east-west light rail line will connect with Metro and MARC in a way that will help reduce our dependence on cars by providing a reliable and environmentally friendly transit option to connect people with their places of employment, places of worship, and centers of economic development throughout the region. This is the basis for our Smart, Green, and Growing initiative.”

“Governor O’Malley and I have made public transportation one of our top priorities because we understand that Maryland cannot continue to move forward if our neighbors are buried in gridlock,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “The Purple Line project will do more than shuttle residents east and west through the Washington suburbs. It will connect people to opportunities. I applaud all the men and women who have shared our efforts to expand and improve public transportation and I look forward to traveling along this light rail in the near future to visit my friends in Silver Spring, in Bethesda and in New Carrolton.”

The preferred alternative selected will connect major employment and activity centers in Bethesda/Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, University of Maryland College Park, and New Carrollton with residential and commercial areas located in between, including the Takoma Park/Langley Park community. It will link both branches of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail Red Line at Bethesda and Silver Spring, the Green Line at College Park, and the Orange...
Line at New Carrollton. The project will also connect all three MARC commuter rail lines, Amtrak, and local bus services.

“Moving forward on a light rail Purple Line is good news for thousands of Marylanders currently wasting time, money and gas in gridlock,” said Senator Cardin, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Transportation Subcommittee. “The lack of affordable, convenient transportation choices connecting Maryland communities, along with Metro, MARC and Amtrak, has been frustrating for individuals and businesses throughout our region, but that is changing. As we begin to develop climate change legislation in the Senate, my number one priority will be to ensure that we make robust investments in public transit projects such as the Purple Line that will be good for our economy and good for our environment.”

“The Purple Line is a critical project for Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, and I intend to partner with my Congressional colleagues to ensure that it receives the federal funding it deserves. It is essential that this project be implemented in a manner that preserves the integrity of the Capital Crescent Trail and minimizes the impact on surrounding neighborhoods. I will work with Governor O’Malley and federal transportation officials to accomplish this goal,” said Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

The Purple Line LPA will be a pedestrian friendly system with a total of 21 stations proposed for the corridor that are projected to handle 64,800 boardings a day by 2030. On the eastern end, it will operate along the Montgomery County Master Plan Georgetown Branch alignment where innovative design techniques will be used to allow the trail and the Purple Line to coexist in a community-friendly-manner.

“As a long-time champion of the Purple Line, I am excited that we are poised at the state and federal levels to make the Purple Line a reality,” said Rep. Donna F. Edwards. “While this project will impact some more than others along the route, the Purple Line project will promote transit system connectivity and provide much-needed transportation options for the entire region. It will improve east to west transportation across the region, and will be a source of economic development for both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. I thank Governor O’Malley, Senator Cardin, and County Executives Leggett and Johnson for their ongoing commitment to the Purple Line Project.”

The Purple Line LPA will largely run on the surface with one short tunnel section, one aerial section, and several underpasses and overpasses of busy roadways. It will operate mainly in dedicated or exclusive lanes, allowing for fast, reliable transit operations. The users of the Purple Line will generally access the line by foot, since it directly serves local communities, or by other transit services, particularly Metrorail and local bus services.

The planning for this project has included extensive public participation and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has worked with local community members to develop alternatives that provide the greatest benefits, while minimizing adverse impacts. The Purple Line alternative selected has the support of both Jack B. Johnson, County Executive for Prince George’s County and Isiah Leggett, County Executive for Montgomery County. Support for the alternative also comes from both county councils, the mayors of many towns, and numerous legislators along the 16-mile corridor.

“Too much time is spent in the car each day going to and from work. This is lost time that could be spent with family and friends. The Purple Line will give commuters another mass transit option and shorten commute times, thus allowing people to spend less time away from their loved ones,” said Prince George’s County Executive Jack Johnson. “Additionally, it will give us more opportunities to create mixed-used, transit-oriented development projects where our residents can live, work and have easy access to public transportation.”

The MTA will continue to work to address and mitigate concerns and issues raised by communities and citizens throughout the study process. Public outreach and agency coordination will continue to be an integral part of the development of the final environmental impact statement, providing opportunities for local residents and stakeholders to contribute to the planning and design of the project. With appropriate approvals and funding, construction could start in 2013 and service on the Purple Line could begin in 2016.

Governor O’Malley also announced today the preferred alternative for the Baltimore Red Line. The Red Line is a 14-mile, east-west light rail line that will extend from the Woodlawn area in Baltimore County to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Campus in east Baltimore City. It will provide convenient connections to the Metro Subway, the...
existing Light Rail system, MARC commuter trains and local bus routes to create a comprehensive regional transit network. Together, the Purple Line and the Red Line represent the next generation of transit in Maryland.

For more information on the Purple Line, please visit [www.purplelinemd.com](http://www.purplelinemd.com).

View a list of Purple Line Frequently Asked Questions and Responses.

View a map of the planned route for the Purple Line.

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**Purple Line Key Facts**

- **Mode** - Light rail
- **Overall length** - 16.3 miles
  - Surface – 13.7 miles
  - Tunnel - .7 miles
  - Aerial – 1.9 miles
- **Stations** - 21 surface stations
- **Capital cost** - $1.517 billion (2009 dollars)
- **Average daily ridership** – 64,800 (43% of riders will use Metrorail for part of their trip)
- **FTA cost-effectiveness rating** - $23.20
- **Maintenance facilities** – 2
  - Lyttonsville: on Brookville Road in Montgomery County
  - Glenridge: on Veterans Parkway in Prince George’s County
- **LRT vehicles** - 55
- **Autos off the road** - 19,200 new daily transit trips
- **One-way travel time** - Bethesda to New Carrollton - 56 minutes
- **Frequency of service**
  - 6 minutes peak headway
  - 10 minutes off-peak headway
- **Schedule** (provided necessary approvals obtained and funding available)
  - Preliminary Engineering begins 2009
  - Final Design begins 2011
  - Construction begins 2013
  - Operations begins 2016

Additional Press Releases
Related Information

- View Purple Line Route Diagram
- Purple Line Frequently Asked Questions
- Red Line Locally Preferred Alternative
Governor O’Malley Announces Red Line Locally Preferred Alternative

Sleek, Quiet, Low-to-the-Ground Vehicles Will Travel along East-West Corridor Creating the ‘Next Generation’ of Transit for the Baltimore Region

BALTIMORE, MD (August 4, 2009) - Governor Martin O’Malley announced today that the locally preferred alternative for Baltimore’s Red Line will be a 14-mile, east-west light rail line operating between Woodlawn to the west and the Johns Hopkins Bayview medical complex to the east. The Red Line will connect with the existing Baltimore Light Rail system, MARC stations, the Baltimore Metro subway and local bus routes to create a comprehensive regional transit network that is unprecedented in the Baltimore area.

“A light rail system operating along the Red Line corridor will provide the east-west transit service that has been missing in the Baltimore region for decades,” said Governor O’Malley. “The Red Line will connect people to the diverse employment, education, healthcare and entertainment centers located throughout the region by providing an efficient and dependable transit system that is unprecedented in the Baltimore region. And, we will do it in an environmentally conscious and sustainable way.”

“The Baltimore Red Line is a vital project that will connect people with opportunities,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “This project is just one component of our longstanding commitment to improving and expanding public transportation for all Marylanders and as we prepare for the arrival of BRAC, this project is more important than ever. I applaud all the men and women who have shared our efforts increase public transit ridership and I look forward to riding this line with Marylanders from around the Baltimore suburbs.”

With this selection of what is formally known as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), the project will now be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under its “New Starts” process. The State will be seeking the approval to begin preliminary engineering and the $1.6 billion project will compete for federal funding.

“The Baltimore Red Line is going to help transform our region, adding a convenient, affordable alternative to the
ever-increasing gridlock,” said Senator Cardin, a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Transportation Subcommittee. “With connections to Baltimore’s Light Rail, MARC, and downtown bus routes, the Red Line will improve the flow of our city’s transportation, help improve air quality by taking thousands of cars off the road, and provide Maryland with a jumpstart in developing a new, more energy efficient economy.”

The preferred Red Line alternative selected will run mostly as a dedicated surface transitway in the median of existing roads with one mile of tunnel under Cooks Lane and approximately three miles of tunnel downtown. It will run underground in areas of high congestion and limited right-of-way, while running on the surface where available right of way, traffic conditions and adjacent land uses are appropriate. The Red Line will be the region’s first cross-town rail route that will tie the city and suburbs together serving existing dense residential neighborhoods and employment centers. It also will support emerging new development at locations such as Harbor East, Canton Crossing and Uplands. The presence of the Red Line has the potential to spur revitalization efforts at Security Square Mall, Edmondson Village, Highlandtown, Greektown, and around the West Baltimore MARC station. By linking up with the MARC system, the Red Line will improve access to Washington, DC and growing BRAC job opportunities at Fort Meade and Aberdeen.

Planning for the Red Line has included extensive public participation and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has worked with local community members to develop alternatives that provide the greatest benefits, while minimizing adverse impacts. This Red Line alternative has the support of Congressman Elijah Cummings, Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon and Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith.

“Construction of the Red Line will support redevelopment in local communities throughout the City of Baltimore while improving the connections that local residents have to a wide range of opportunities throughout the metropolitan region,” said Congressman Elijah Cummings. “As a Senior Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I will continue to fight to ensure that this project receives the federal funding it needs to become a beneficial reality to our region.”

“The decision by Governor O’Malley to move forward with the preferred local option 4C is significant to the success of the Red Line and the Baltimore region,” said Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith. “I applaud the Governor's vision and leadership and his understanding of the relationship among mass transit, economic development and sustainability.”

“This billion dollar project holds limitless benefits for Baltimore’s neighborhoods,” stated Mayor Sheila Dixon. “The Red Line will connect the west side to the east side, transform our region's economy and environment for the better and, during these tough economic times, create and support needed jobs. The Red Line will be the catalyst to carry Baltimore's revitalization to even greater heights.”

As development of the Red Line moves forward, the Maryland Transit Administration will continue to work to address and mitigate the concerns and issues raised by communities and citizens throughout the study process. Public outreach and agency coordination will continue to be an integral part of the development of the final environmental impact statement, providing opportunities for local residents and stakeholders to contribute to the planning and design of the project. With appropriate approvals and funding, construction could start in 2013 and service on the Red Line could begin in 2016.

Today, Governor O’Malley also announced the selection of light rail as the preferred alternative for the Washington region’s Purple Line. The Purple Line is a 16-mile light rail line that would extend from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George's County. The Purple Line will link both branches of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail Red Line at Bethesda and Silver Spring, to the Green Line at College Park, and the Orange Line at New Carrollton. The project would also connect to all three MARC commuter rail lines, Amtrak, and local bus services. Together, the Red Line and the Purple Line form the next generation of transit in Maryland.

To obtain more information on Baltimore’s Red Line visit [www.baltimoreredline.com](http://www.baltimoreredline.com).

View a list of Red Line Frequently Asked Questions and Responses.

View a map of the planned route for the Red Line.
Red Line Key Facts

- Mode – Light rail

- Overall length – 14.5 miles
  - Surface – 9.8 miles
  - Tunnel – 3.9 miles (Cooks Lane; Downtown – MLK Blvd. to Boston Street)
  - Aerial – 0.8 miles (over I-695 and ramps; Woodlawn Drive; and over CSX freight rail yard)

- Stations – 20
  - Surface – 15 stations, 5 with parking
  - Underground – 5 stations

- Capital Cost - $1.63 billion (2009 dollars)

- Average daily ridership – 54,000

- FTA cost effectiveness rating - $24.24

- Maintenance Facility – at Calverton Road bounded by Franklintown Road, Frankling Street, and Amtrak

- One-Way Travel Time – Woodlawn to Bayview: 44 minutes

- Frequency of Service
  - Peak: 8 minutes
  - Off Peak: 10 minutes

- Schedule (provided necessary approvals obtained and funding available)
  - Preliminary Engineering begins 2009
  - Final Design begins 2011
  - Construction begins 2013
  - Operations begins 2016

Additional Press Releases

Related Information

- View Red Line Route Diagram
- Red Line Frequently Asked Questions
- Purple Line Locally Preferred Alternative
MARYLAND: A Leader in Health IT System

Health Information Exchange Contract Approved by State Board
Better Care, Controlling Costs for Families, Hospitals and Doctors

BALTIMORE, MD (August 5, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley announced today that Maryland has taken a major step forward to create a statewide health information exchange – making Maryland a leader in health information technology (Health IT) nationwide. Earlier today, the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) awarded $10 million to support the development of the statewide exchange in Maryland that will help control administrative costs, make health care more effective, provide better care for Maryland families, and ensure that patient care is guided by the best information available at the bedside or in the examining room,

“The creation on a Health IT exchange in Maryland is critical to improving patient care for our families and children and reducing administrative costs at the same time,” said Governor O’Malley. “With today’s announcement, Maryland remains at the forefront of Health IT development nationwide. I applaud the dedication of the health care professionals on the Commission for their work in helping Maryland build an outstanding health information exchange with strong privacy protections.”

The Maryland statewide exchange will be developed by CRISP, a not-for-profit collaboration among the Johns Hopkins Medicine, MedStar Health, the University of Maryland Medical Systems, and Erickson Retirement Communities. CRISP will develop the “citizen-centric” statewide electronic health information exchange that allows health care providers to translate and share electronic records under the strict mandate to protect patient privacy.

“We are pleased to see the major health care systems in the state work together to create something that will benefit both providers and their patients,” said Don Young, MD, chair of the HSCRC. “These are strong partners committed to building a system that will help improve health care in Maryland.”

Although CRISP will develop and operate the exchange, it will serve all providers in Maryland and operate under key privacy policies set by Maryland law and by a separate Policy Board with broad public representation.

“We have recognized from the start that the major challenge is not choosing the technology, but rather choosing the policies that will protect the privacy and security of our personal health information,” said David Sharp, Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission’s Center for Health Information Technology.

The designation and funding of CRISP as Maryland’s health information exchange will allow the state to receive additional federal stimulus funding provided by Congress to speed the implementation of these exchanges. In addition, President Obama worked with Congress earlier this year to create incentives for health care providers to expand electronic health record keeping.

The HSCRC action follows several years of analysis of the technology, the business case, and the substantial privacy issues involved in developing an exchange. The process involved a Task Force to Study Electronic Health Records from across the state, brought together by the Maryland Health Care Commission. Reports resulting from these consensus-building meetings are available from the Maryland Health Care Commission.
Governor O'Malley Announces Deadline for Public Comment on Budget Cuts

Citizens encouraged to submit suggestions by August 10, 2009

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 5, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley today announced that the deadline for public comment on the State’s budget situation is August 10, 2009, and encouraged members of the public to submit their suggestions before it’s too late. Thousands of comments have already been submitted on the website, which can be found by going to www.maryland.gov.

“Two weeks ago, I encouraged all Marylanders to submit their suggestions on how to find additional savings and make our government more efficient. To date, we have received thousands of suggestions from Marylanders across our State on how to move our state forward,” said Governor O’Malley. “I want to thank everyone, especially those state employees who have offered suggestions, to help guide us through this economic downturn. We are currently in the process of looking through all of these suggestions. We are categorizing them and will be sharing them with the appropriate state agencies to review – and so I am asking that for any citizen that hasn’t done so already to submit their comments online by Monday, August 10th.”

The website, which also outlines the latest budget cuts, highlights the impact of the national recession on Maryland, and compares Maryland’s fiscal circumstances to other states, invites members of the public to submit their comments using a form at the bottom of the page.

Some of the suggestions received so far include:

- **“Why not encourage more telecommuting and working from home for state employees? With Blackberries and laptops issued to many workers, why not encourage certain days of the week to be "Work-from-home" days? The state would save on facility and energy costs and workers would enjoy the flexibility, and maybe even could let go of some of their personal/sick time in exchange.”** (Baltimore City)

- **“Go paperless where possible. Save on paper and postage.”** (Baltimore)

- **“Stop spending so much money on beautifying the median strips along the state highways and let the grass grow longer. Also, eliminate the use of credit cards by state employees. Go back to the old way of having expense accounts that have to be approved.”** (Anne Arundel)

Last month, the Board of Public Works unanimously approved more than $280 million in FY10 budget reductions, a step in addressing a projected budget shortfall of more than $700 million for Fiscal Year 2010. These actions will bring the total amount of reduced spending and budget cuts under the O’Malley-Brown Administration to $4 billion. Last month’s cuts combined with planned reductions bring the FY10 Operating Budget below $13 billion, representing the first known incidence of General Fund declines for three straight years in state history.

**Members of the public can submit comments here.**
ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 5, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley issued this statement today following the passage of S. 251, the Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009 by the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, chaired by West Virginia Senator John Rockefeller. The bill is sponsored by the Ranking Member of the Committee, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and its co-sponsors include Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski.

“I want to thank the members of the Senate Commerce Committee for this important step towards implementing cell phone jamming technology in our prisons. This legislation would provide us the tools to use technology to block illegal inmate cell phone calls from within the walls of our prisons.

The use of cell phones by inmates constitutes a significant threat to public safety in Maryland’s neighborhoods, and I’d like to commend Senator Barbara Mikulski, co-sponsor of the Senate legislation, for her leadership on this important issue.”

The Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009 would give Governors and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons the ability to petition the Federal Communications Commission for authority to use wireless prison technology in the limited confines of a prison or jail, without compromising public safety or interfering with legitimate cell phone use. Passage of this bill would give states like Maryland access to this urgently-needed technology.

Additional Press Releases
Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley

ANAPOLIS, MD (August 6, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley released this statement today following the announcement by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that it will release additional FY09 H-2B visas for temporary workers, which will provide immediate relief to numerous crab processing businesses in Maryland.

“On behalf of all Marylanders, particularly those on our Eastern Shore, I want to thank Congressman Frank Kratovil, who along with Senator Mikulski, Majority Leader Hoyer and others, worked tirelessly towards today’s announcement by the Department of Homeland Security.

“Maryland’s historic crab industry depends on the H-2B program, and today’s announcement is good news for all whose livelihood depends on the crab industry. These additional temporary worker visas will allow the crab picking houses on our Shore to remain strong throughout the season with the workforce they need.”

Federal immigration laws cap the H-2B program at 66,000 visas per year, and many crab processing facilities on Maryland’s Eastern Shore have had their H-2B applications denied as a result of the DHS formula for allocating visas under this cap. DHS will acknowledge today that visas have been under-allocated under the fiscal year 2009 cap and an additional 25,000 visas will be immediately released. Maryland’s crab industry has been working with a severe labor shortage that has prevented a number of processing facilities from opening this season, while those that have been opened have been operating at levels far below capacity. Reopening these facilities will have a positive impact on the local economy. A recent study from the University of Maryland found that each H-2B worker in the crab industry supports 2.5 American jobs.

Governor O’Malley also engaged in aggressive advocacy on behalf of this struggling industry. On April 28, 2008, he signed onto a letter along with 16 other governors to Congressional Leadership requesting emergency extension of the cap, and on June 26, 2009, he initiated a letter signed by seven other governors to Congress requesting that they take up bills sponsored by Senator Mikulski and Congressman Kratovil that would provide relief.

Additional Press Releases
Governor Martin O'Malley Accepts Report Expanding Math, Science Education and Training in Maryland

STEM Initiatives to Allow Maryland to Compete in 21st Century, Global Economy

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 6, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley formally accepted the final report and recommendations from the Governor's STEM Task Force today, a panel co-chaired by University System of Maryland Chancellor William “Brit” Kirwan and Maryland Business Roundtable for Education Executive Director June Streckfus. Recommendations include bold new target areas, including tripling the number of teachers in STEM shortage areas and increasing the number of STEM college graduates by 40 percent by 2015.

The Task Force, created in September 2008, was tasked with making recommendations aimed at establishing Maryland as a global leader in the development of its workforce for the future and its STEM-based research and economic development infrastructure.

“Our challenge and opportunity is to continue developing our workforce so our State will not only meet the demands of the 21st century, but become a global leader where our students can compete in the classroom and the workplace with their counterparts around the world,” said Governor O'Malley. “This report is a vital part of our statewide vision for STEM education, which calls for better preparing every student at every age in every region of our State. Our greatness as a State is going to be determined by what we do in the here and now, to invest in each other, in our potential, in our skills, and in our capabilities.”

“As we prepare for the arrival of Base Realignment and Closure, Governor O'Malley and I are working more closely than ever with our partners in local government, at our State Department of Education and in the private sector to develop strategies that will create a technically-trained workforce pipeline for years to come. Our commitment to STEM is an important part of that pipeline,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “BRAC will create 60,000 jobs in Maryland – good-paying jobs, secure jobs, and jobs that will stay in Maryland for decades. I applaud Governor O’Malley, MSDE and all the members of the P-20 Council for supporting STEM programs that will undoubtedly assure we take full advantage of the opportunities BRAC presents.”

STEM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education. Sharpening STEM skills is considered critical to preparing students for the knowledge-based economy. Maryland ranks second in the nation in professional and technical workers as a percentage of the workforce, and has over 220,000 workers employed in professional, scientific, and technical service industries. The state's STEM-related industries account for millions of dollars in economic investment, illustrating the need for K-12 teachers and a comprehensive STEM curriculum aligned throughout the educational pipeline, from elementary school through our colleges and universities.

“I'd like to thank Governor O'Malley for creating this Task Force and for his continued focus on enhancing and ensuring the State of Maryland’s position as a leader in the knowledge economy,” said William E. Kirwan, Task Force co-chair and Chancellor of the University of System of Maryland. “It has been an honor and privilege to work with June Streckfus and the dedicated members of this group. With the support of the Governor, other state officials and policymakers, and representatives from the education and business communities, the State of Maryland has an exceptional opportunity to leverage its tremendous resources to advance the STEM agenda articulated in our report. The state's economic competitiveness depends heavily on our collective ability to implement the recommended actions.”
"With a strong, collective voice, we are speaking and working to ensure that all Marylanders are fluent in the international language of the new economy – math and science,” said Task Force co-chair June Streckfus, Executive Director of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education. “Developing a world-class workforce with strong STEM skills is the most value-producing investment we can make in Maryland’s future.”

To carry out its charge, the Task Force divided into three workgroups: STEM education, STEM workforce development, and translational research and economic development. Each workgroup studied and developed recommendations in its assigned area. The Task Force then came together, reaching broad consensus on the most essential steps Maryland must take, grounding its recommendations in evidence-based research reports and analysis of state data. The Task Force recommends seven actions:

1. Align P-12 STEM curriculum with college requirements and workplace expectations in order to prepare all students for postsecondary success.
2. Triple the number of teachers in STEM shortage areas who are prepared in Maryland programs, increase their five-year retention rate from an estimated 50% to 75%, and enhance the STEM preparation and aptitudes for elementary and early childhood teachers.
3. Ensure that all P-20 mathematics and science teachers have the knowledge and skills to help all students successfully complete the college- and career-ready curriculum.
4. Provide STEM internships, co-op, or lab experiences for all interested high school and college students to jump start their successful transition to the workplace.
5. Increase the number of STEM college graduates by 40% from the present level of 4,400 graduates by 2015.
6. Boost Maryland’s global competitiveness by supporting research and entrepreneurship.
7. Create Maryland’s STEM Innovation Network to make STEM resources available to all.

View the entire Task Force report formally accepted today by Governor O’Malley.

Since the passage of the Thornton Bridge to Excellence Plan, State funding for local school systems has increased by $1.97 billion dollars, a 76-percent increase. Governor O’Malley secured a record $5.5 billion funding level for FY10 despite difficult economic times, including full funding of Thornton formulas statewide. In addition, for the first time ever, Maryland will have invested more than $1 billion in school construction funding over a three year period, including over $260 million proposed for FY10 alone statewide.

In early January, Education Week Magazine ranked Maryland’s public schools number one in the nation. Shortly thereafter, the College Board ranked Maryland’s high schools number one in the nation for Advanced Placement participation and achievement.

Many of the State's colleges and universities have nationally ranked STEM and competitive research programs, including the University System of Maryland, which attracts more than $1 billion annually in external research and development support and The Johns Hopkins University, the nation's leading University in volume of research.

Additional Press Releases
Governor O'Malley Addresses Horse Industry Leaders at Maryland Horse Forum

Equine industry leaders gather to chart a course for the future

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 6, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today addressed more than 250 leaders of Maryland’s equine industry at The Show Place Arena and Prince George’s Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, a site important to Maryland’s equine history. The horsemen and women gathered to chart a course that will strengthen all elements of this critical agricultural sector as it moves into the future. During his talk at the Second Maryland Horse Forum the Governor recognized the value of the horse industry to the State’s history and its future, outlined the progress that has been made since the first Forum five years ago, and pledged support for the group’s continued hard work to bring all parts of the industry toward a stronger future.

“Our heritage, our spirit, our economy, our land and our jobs – all of those things are strengthened and enriched by the presence of the horse through the centuries, and are no less significant today,” said Governor O’Malley. “The work done today to shape the direction of the horse industry is central to its future viability and prosperity, in turn keeping tens of thousands of jobs, enhancing the enjoyment of citizens of all ages, preserving hundreds of thousands of acres of land and contributing over a billion dollars to the State’s economy.”

The O’Malley-Brown Administration has made real and steady progress toward fulfilling the recommendations of the 2004 Forum. The accomplishments include:

- Fully funding agricultural land preservation – providing a total of $141 million in and protecting nearly 25,000 acres of valuable farmland in Maryland which we’ll be able to pass on to our children and theirs.
- Officially expanding the use of activities appropriate for farmland preserved through the state farmland preservation program to include Maryland’s equestrian activities
- Protecting nearly 24,000 acres of land in two and a half years through Program Open Space.
- Passage of slots legislation with as much as $100 million dedicated annually to purses and breeders incentives.
- Passage of legislation this year to ensure that the Preakness Stakes remains where it belongs here in Maryland, where it’s been run since 1873.
- Approving nearly $35 million in Rural Legacy grants to preserve farms and keep suburban sprawl at bay.
- Signing into law a bill that recognizes equestrian activities as agricultural in nature – helping us to protect more horse farms from zoning issues, prevent further loss of green space, and enable more farms to stay in business.
- Providing, this year through industry-funded Maryland Horse Industry Board grants, just over $20,000 for equine health and education, therapeutic riding, and promotional projects – recognizing the important role that horses can play in improving our quality of life.

“Governor O’Malley has strongly supported all aspects of the horse industry and has shown his commitment to strengthening it,” said Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance. “We’ve been able to make important strides with the partnership and hard work of horse owners, farm operators, the farmers that grow and sell the feed and hay that horses need, pony clubbers, veterinarians and so many others involved in the day to day success of the industry. There is a great deal more to do and the work that goes on at this forum will guide the way.”
In facilitated breakout sessions, participants discussed topics including labor; zoning, land use, and land preservation; promoting the horse and the industry; legal issues/liability; the future of horse racing; access to trails and public lands; unwanted horses; competition sites and infrastructure; and environmental conservation on the farm. The outcomes of the forum will be compiled into a report, which will serve as a framework to move the industry forward.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Equine Survey, there are more than 87,000 horses in Maryland worth $680 million on 20,200 horse farms. Sixty percent of the horses in Maryland are used for recreational purposes while 40 percent are for racing. There are five racetracks, not including training facilities like Bowie and Fair Hill, 600 licensed stables offering boarding and/or lessons to the public, and eight steeplechase race courses. In 2005, the American Horse Council calculated that the Maryland horse industry has an annual economic impact of $1.6 billion.

The 2009 Maryland Horse Forum was sponsored by The Equiery publication, The Maryland Horse Breeders Association/Maryland Million, Ltd., MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Maryland Farm Bureau, University of Maryland – Equine Studies, Retired Racehorse Training Symposium. For more information, visit www.mdhorseforum.com.

Additional Press Releases
Governor O'Malley Appoints Andrew C. Pruski to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education

ANNAPOLES, MD (August 7, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley today announced the appointment of Andrew C. Pruski to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

“I am proud to appoint Mr. Pruski to the Anne Arundel County Board of Education,” said Governor O’Malley. “Mr. Pruski has extensive experience in the education community, and has served in a number of roles in community organizations in Anne Arundel County and across the State. I am confident that Mr. Pruski possesses the skill and the leadership necessary to ensure every child in Anne Arundel County receives the quality public education they deserve.”

Andrew C. Pruski has an extensive educational background and has served in various educational roles in jurisdictions across the State and on the federal level. He currently serves as the Supervisor of Assessment in the Department of Research, Accountability and Assessment for Baltimore County Public Schools. In that capacity, he is responsible for the oversight and management of the Maryland state-mandated assessment program in Baltimore County. From August 2001 to February 2005, Mr. Pruski was a Social Studies teacher at Frederick Douglass High School in Prince George’s County. He also served as a Team Leader in 2004 on the People to People Eisenhower Program where he supervised staff on the administration of assessments that measured student performance, and also taught 44 high school students on European culture. In 1999, he served as a Clerk in the United States Department of Education in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, where he prepared briefing materials for the Assistant Secretary of Education, and drafted outlines and notes for the Assistant Secretary’s speeches on education policy.

Mr. Pruski is a member of the Maryland Assessment Group, the Baltimore County Council of Administrative and Supervisory Employees, the Anne Arundel High School Parent Teacher Student Organizations, the Four Seasons Elementary Parent Teacher Association, the Greater Odenton Improvement Association, and the West Arundel Lions Club, among others. He was also a member of the Fort Meade Alliance where he served as an Education Committee member, the Baltimore Washington Chamber of Commerce, the Prince George’s County Educator’s Association and the Maryland State Teacher’s Association.

In 2006, he received the Quality Employee award from Baltimore County Public Schools, and in 2004 received the Outstanding Service Award from the Prince George’s County Educator’s Association. He received a service award in 2003 from Frederick Douglass High School and a community service award in 2002 from the Lions Club in Upper Marlboro.

Mr. Pruski received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Niagara University in May 2000, and received his Master of Science in Secondary Education from Niagara University in 2001. He has received a certification in Maryland Administration and Maryland Advance Professional Teaching. He resides in Gambrills. He is married and has two young children that will attend Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Additional Press Releases
Maryland Moves to Reduce Impact of H1N1 Flu in Schools, Public

New CDC guidance for K-12, Vaccinations, closings released; DHMH reports fifth H1N1 (Swine) Flu-related Death

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 7, 2009) – In an effort to reduce the impact of the novel H1N1 influenza virus in schools and the general public, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued new guidance for state and local health officials and school administrators. With a focus on limiting the disruption of day-to-day activities and the vital learning process for Maryland's estimated one million students, such actions may include voluntary vaccination programs within local schools.

"Protecting the health of all Marylanders, particularly school-age children, remains our priority as we continue to plan and prepare for a resurgence of the H1N1 flu this fall," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "We're working closely with our federal and local partners to ensure we are as prepared as possible to meet this challenge with every tool available so that we can decrease the spread of this novel flu virus. As Maryland families prepare for the new school year, they should be assured that local, state, and federal officials are working diligently to address the public health concerns that the H1N1 strain presents."

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) has reported Maryland's fifth death associated with the novel H1N1 pandemic influenza to the CDC. The latest report involves an adult from the Washington suburbs who had underlying medical conditions. As before, personal details about the case, including age, gender and specific jurisdiction of residence, will not be released to protect the privacy of the resident and the resident's family.

"Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of those who have died in association with the novel H1N1 pandemic influenza," said Frances Phillips, DHMH Deputy Secretary for Public Health. "With seasonal flu season rapidly approaching, we remain vigilant and concerned for those Marylanders who are pregnant or have chronic underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease or an illness that requires medication affecting the immune system. While we wait for the development and delivery of a vaccine, everyone should practice good hygiene and cough etiquette to protect themselves and their loved ones."

The CDC reports as of August 7, 2009 that 436 people nationwide have died after contracting novel H1N1 influenza and 6,506 people have been hospitalized. CDC and state health departments have discontinued reporting of ill individuals as of July 24th.*

More H1N1 flu-related deaths are expected, as seen with seasonal flu. Symptoms of influenza include fever, cough, and sore throat. Additional symptoms may include chills, headache, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea or shortness of breath.

Based on CDC figures, it is estimated that 1,000 Marylanders die every year from seasonal flu or its complications. Complications and death are more common among those with serious underlying health conditions.

According to the CDC, people at a higher risk of serious health consequences from the H1N1 flu virus are the same as those with seasonal flu:

- Children less than 5 years old
- Persons aged 65 years or older
- Pregnant women
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities
- Persons who are extremely obese
- Adults and children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders
- Adults and children who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by HIV)
- Children and adolescents (less than 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection

*http://www.governor.maryland.gov/pressreleases/090807b.asp

6/12/2014 1:48 PM
As with seasonal flu, the best protection from contracting or spreading the novel H1N1 flu virus is to practice good personal hygiene:

- Wash your hands often, especially after coughing, sneezing, and wiping or blowing the nose
- If you have flu symptoms, stay home and avoid contact with other people to protect them from catching your illness.
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Use paper tissues when wiping or blowing your nose; throw tissues away after use
- Stay away from crowded living and sleeping spaces, if possible

**Additional Information**

[Click here for Maryland DHMH H1N1 Influenza information.](http://www.governor.maryland.gov/pressreleases/090807b.asp)

[Click here for the Weekly CDC Novel H1N1 Flu Situation Update.](http://www.governor.maryland.gov/pressreleases/090807b.asp)

[Click here for CDC Interim Patient Treatment and Risk Guidance.](http://www.governor.maryland.gov/pressreleases/090807b.asp)

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**Additional Press Releases**

Governor Martin O'Malley Dedicates Bridge to Former Governor Harry R. Hughes

Caroline County's native son honored for his outstanding leadership and public service

DENTON, MD (August 9, 2009) – At an afternoon ceremony in Denton today, Governor Martin O'Malley honored the exemplary career of former Governor Harry R. Hughes by dedicating the MD 404 bridge over the Choptank River in his honor. Family and friends of Governor Hughes were on hand along the banks of the Choptank to witness the unveiling of new commemorative highway signs identifying the structure as the “Harry R. Hughes Bridge.”

“Statesman, environmentalist, leader, father. These are all words that describe Harry Hughes,” said Governor O’Malley. “The positive impact he has had on Maryland during his public career can be felt from Oakland to Ocean City. If we are successful in living up to the standards set by Governor Hughes, our government, our communities and our environment will benefit for generations to come. Today’s dedication is a small tribute to the enormous impact his years of service has had on all Marylanders.”

Harry Roe Hughes served as Governor of Maryland from 1979 to 1987 after extensive service in the General Assembly representing the Eastern Shore. He served four years as a member of the House of Delegates, 12 years as a state Senator, and six years as the first Secretary of the Department of Transportation, a cabinet-level agency formed to unify and focus the many and varied transportation needs of the State.

Under the administration of Governor Hughes, one of the most vigorous programs in the nation was enacted to combat drunken driving, significantly reducing loss of life on streets and highways. Legislation was adopted to consolidate an antiquated Baltimore City Court system. Services to elderly citizens were greatly expanded and nationally recognized programs were adopted for the disposal of low-level nuclear and toxic waste.

Highlights of Governor Hughes’ second term include his campaign to save the Chesapeake Bay from generations of pollution and abuse, a program for which he mustered widespread popular support. His efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland’s precious environment continue today. Also featured during the second Hughes’s term was a record increase in state support of public education, and the establishment of a National Institute for the Study and Prevention of Violence and Extremism at the Baltimore City campus of the University of Maryland.

The MD 404 bridge in Caroline County is the first structure on the Eastern Shore to be dedicated in honor of Governor Hughes. Other honors exist around the state. Recognizing his leadership in establishing the Maryland Department of Transportation, the department’s headquarters building near BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport is named in honor of Governor Hughes. In 2008, the I-95 Southbound rest area in Laurel was dedicated to Governor Hughes in
“This honor is long overdue,” said Judge James Owen Wise, a Hughes family friend who played a key role in building support for the dedication of the MD 404 bridge. “As Secretary of Transportation and Governor during the planning, funding and construction of this bridge, Harry is responsible for its existence. This bridge is one of the many remarkable services this native son has rendered to his town, county and state. He has left an indelible imprint on us all.”

Building on the legacy of highway safety established by Governor Hughes, Governor O’Malley today announced that construction on the next phase of safety improvements to MD 404 will begin next month. The project will add two lanes and a median along a 1.4-mile segment of MD 404 between Tuckahoe Creek and Ridgely Road (MD 480) in Hillsboro, Caroline County. Construction of the segment is expected to be completed in late fall 2012. The $7 million in construction funding comes from Governor O’Malley’s aggressive management of federal funds provided by President Barack Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Additional Press Releases
Governor O'Malley Dedicates Upgraded Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Facility

**Newly upgraded facility to reduce pollution in Marshyhope Creek and the Bay**
**Governor highlights $1.6 Million in America Recovery and Reinvestment Act Clean Water Funding to Reduce Stormwater Pollution and Prevent Flooding in Federalsburg**

FEDERALSBURG, MD (August 9, 2009) – Today, Governor Martin O’Malley, Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari T. Wilson, State Senator Richard Colburn, Federalsburg Mayor Michael Fluharty and others gathered on the banks of Marshyhope Creek to dedicate the town’s newly upgraded wastewater treatment plant.

Funding for the upgrade included a $3.3 million Bay Restoration Fund grant, $2.8 million in State grants, as well as a $3.1 million low-interest loan. A key component of Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay cleanup work, the upgrade will result in significantly less nitrogen and phosphorous pollution in Marshyhope Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. Federalsburg will also receive $1.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act clean water funding, along with a $900,000 State grant, for a new project to control stormwater runoff pollution, prevent sewer overflows, and reduce flooding.

“After decades of setting restoration goals and benchmarks decades in the future, Maryland – along with our Bay State partners and the Federal EPA – has committed to ambitious new 2-year Bay milestones that more than double our work to reduce nutrient pollution,” said Governor O’Malley. “Key to achieving this goal is upgrading our State’s wastewater treatment plants. Today’s announcement is a credit to the citizens of Caroline County, who contribute to these improvements through the Bay Restoration Fund each month. These improvements are urgently needed, and will make a dramatic difference to Federalsburg and to the Chesapeake Bay.”

In 2004, the Maryland General Assembly created the Bay Restoration Fund to provide a dedicated source of funding to upgrade wastewater treatment plants. As a result, all of Maryland’s 66 major wastewater treatment plants will have enhanced nutrient removal technology to significantly reduce nitrogen and phosphorous pollution in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.

Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Shari T. Wilson said: “These improvements will significantly decrease the amount of nutrients discharged into Marshyhope Creek and the Bay – nitrogen loads will be reduced 83 percent and phosphorus by 85 percent. The resulting water quality will help protect our environment and the health of Marylanders.”

The Federalsburg wastewater treatment plant project involved planning, design, and construction for the Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) and Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) facilities at the existing 0.75 million gallons per day (mgd)
Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant. Upon completion of the BNR and ENR upgrades, the Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant will be capable of achieving effluent quality with annual average nutrient goals of 3 mg/l for Total Nitrogen and 0.3 mg/l for Total Phosphorous. Construction began in January 2008 and was completed in August 2009. Upon completion of the upgrade, the facility will reduce their total nitrogen load by 34,250 lbs/year and their phosphorus load by 3,885 lbs/year.

Federalsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade - Total Cost and Funding Sources

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<th>Total Project Cost</th>
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In addition, Federalsburg will receive $1.6 million from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act clean water funding to design and construct new separate sewer lines and storm drains to functionally replace existing deteriorated combined sewer lines. The new storm drain system will eliminate the potential for combined sewer overflows and significantly reduce stormwater from entering the sewer system and adversely impacting Federalsburg’s pumping station and its newly upgraded wastewater treatment plant. Replacing the combined sewer system will protect public health and water quality.

Federalsburg Sewer Separation & Stormwater Facility

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<tr>
<td>ARRA Clean Water Grant</td>
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Additional Press Releases
Governor Martin O'Malley Offers Public Demonstration: 'Making Government Work with Openness and Transparency'

Governor features StateStat, BayStat, and Recovery Stat at Maryland Association of Counties Annual Summer Conference

OCEAN CITY, MD (August 13, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley offered a public demonstration today of the technological tools the O'Malley-Brown Administration has implemented to make government work more efficiently, while maintaining the highest standards of openness and transparency. Today, before officials attending the Maryland Association of Counties Annual Summer Conference in Ocean City, the Governor demonstrated StateStat, BayStat, and Recovery Stat, three public transparency tools employing Geographic Informational System (GIS) technology designed to increase government accountability for Maryland citizens.

“This GIS technology holds a tremendous amount of promise, and we’re proud to be among the most innovative states in the nation to utilize its potential for the benefit of the people we serve,” said Governor O'Malley. “Through the use of these tools, we have the ability to connect human efforts with human problems, track the basic needs of our citizens and the resources of our government, and recognize trends in the services we provide. In short, the GIS technology that we employed on the City level, and now on the State level, operates under the basic assumption that if we pay taxes, our government ought to work for us.”

StateStat

StateStat, Maryland’s performance-measurement and management program implemented to make state government more accountable and more efficient brings together relevant agencies on a variety of priority areas for the O'Malley-Brown Administration. 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, and received the “Innovations in Government” Award by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. As Governor, O'Malley has adapted the program by applying these same principles to the management of statewide services.

Key public safety, health care, and social services agencies were selected to form the initial foundation of StateStat review process: the Department of Juvenile Services, The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Human Resources, and Health and Mental Hygiene. The program has expanded to include critical service agencies such as: the Maryland Department of State Police, the Department of General Services, the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

BayStat

Governor Martin O'Malley created BayStat by Executive Order in February, 2007 – a powerful statewide tool designed to assess, coordinate and target Maryland’s Bay restoration programs, and to inform our citizens on progress. Each month Governor O'Malley meets with his BayStat team, the Secretaries of the Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources and Planning, scientists from the University of Maryland and other key staff. At these meetings, the team...
reports on progress points for Bay efforts. These sessions provide a regular opportunity for the team to assess progress, evaluate what’s working and what’s not, and adapt the efforts accordingly.

BayStat allows Maryland state agencies to work efficiently toward the broad goal of restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay by coordinating efforts and programs, basing decisions on the best available science, targeting resources to get the best results for the efforts put forth and providing a greater level of accountability and openness for Maryland citizens.

During his presentation, Governor O’Malley discussed new two-year milestones, reached with our regional partners to significantly accelerate our collective Chesapeake Bay restoration actions.

**Recovery Stat**

Within days of President Obama signing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Governor O’Malley announced the launching of recovery.maryland.gov, designed to track every penny of federal investment, every project funded by the Recovery Act, and the jobs supported by the investments.

The website, maintained by StateStat, tracks every category of ARRA spending providing contract-level details to the public. Recently, Maryland launched an updated application for the website, allowing users to find information more easily. The Map has been upgraded with additional information tools, detailed fund descriptions and project details. The new site also provides users the opportunity to send comments and questions about the data and the map directly to StateStat administrators.

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**Additional Press Releases**

Governor Martin O'Malley Hosts Roundtable Discussion with Eastern Shore Small Business Owners

*Governor's second business check-in in as many weeks focuses on the need for Maryland small businesses to remain competitive and profitable in tough times*

OCEAN CITY, MD (August 13, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley, joined by House Speaker Michael Busch, local elected officials, economic development professionals, and members of the local Chamber of Commerce, conducted a roundtable discussion today with Lower Eastern Shore small business owners, the Governor’s second business check-in in as many weeks. The Governor’s regular business check-in discussions are designed to ensure that small businesses remain competitive and profitable even during tough times.

“Small businesses are the engine of Maryland’s economy, and certainly have not been immune to the impact of this national recession,” said Governor O’Malley. “A strong small business community is critical to weathering this recession, and that’s why we’ve proactively sought the input and guidance from small business owners to address the current economic challenges they face, the barriers to job retention and growth, and the types of reform they need in order to thrive.”

The group discussed several relevant topics, including the impact of the national recession on local small businesses, the need for health care reform so employees of small businesses can have access to affordable, quality health care, and the many resources and services available to Maryland companies looking to grow.

“Small business is the cornerstone of the American economy, responsible for half of all private sector jobs in this country,” said Speaker Michael E. Busch. “As our economic recovery unfolds, we must continue to support our small businesses and learn about how we can help them grow.”

This small business roundtable, held at Ocean City’s Sunset Grille, is the second business check-in roundtable discussion in as many weeks. In late July, Governor O’Malley met with small business owners in Rockville for a similar roundtable. Small businesses comprise 97.7 percent of all employers in Maryland, and employ 53.4 percent of the private sector workforce in our State.

During the roundtable discussion, Governor O’Malley addressed the newly created Small Business Task Force, which will be comprised of 15 small business owners from around Maryland. The Task Force will serve as the Governor’s sounding board on small business issues and will be tasked with providing recommendations to improve State services and resources available to Maryland small businesses, so that they may operate more efficiently
and effectively. Attending the roundtable discussion was Wayne Strausberg, member of the Small Business Task Force and owner of The English Company, a series of family restaurants along the Eastern Shore.

The O’Malley-Brown Administration has made progress for Maryland’s small businesses, even in difficult economic times. Last year, Governor O’Malley launched a highly successful program to partner with State agencies, health insurers and small businesses so that more families working in our tremendous small business community can gain access to premium health insurance benefits. In addition, the O’Malley Brown Administration is committed to Maryland’s women and minority-owned businesses, increasing State awards to MBE firms by more than $300 million since taking office.
Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Over $50 Million in Federal Energy Investments for Maryland

ANnapolis, MD (August 14, 2009) – In the midst of some of the highest temperatures of the year thus far, Governor Martin O’Malley and the Maryland Energy Administration announced today the State’s most recent plans to leverage federal funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for new and expanded energy programs to serve Marylanders, advance clean energy in our State, and help lower the utility bills of Maryland consumers. Under the ARRA, Maryland will receive over $51 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to invest in State Energy Programs that will directly help residents and create green collar jobs.

The Maryland Energy Administration will use the funds to help retrofit low and moderate income family homes, provide energy grants for homes, and provide low interest loans for energy improvements in residential and commercial facilities. Recovery Act funding will also support educational and workforce training efforts that will help familiarize the state’s workforce with important sustainable energy approaches. Specifically, Maryland will help fund training programs focused on the construction and building industries, including planning and building code officials, architects, engineers, and other stakeholders.

“Through the State Energy Program funding available today, we are creating over 560 new green collar jobs for our workers and are able to expand energy programs to continue our commitment of putting Maryland families first,” said Governor O’Malley. “Maryland has emerged as a national leader in smart, green, and growing initiatives, and this exciting announcement today furthers our unified commitment to sustainability as One Maryland.”

Last week, the State announced plans to include Government House in a larger energy efficiency effort to install upgrades at 37 buildings over the next year. The State will begin installing solar panels on Government House this week. Other upgrades include more efficient lighting and temperature controls, and are part of a broader project to save energy at state-operated buildings.

“This announcement is exactly what the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act is all about – creating and sustaining jobs today and preparing for the jobs of tomorrow,” U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski said. “Replacing imported oil with alternative energy sources that we produce here at home is critical to America’s national security and to America’s economy. Energy investments like this one will create new good-paying jobs in cities and towns across America. The investments we make now will pay dividends in the years to come by helping Marylanders reduce their monthly energy bills and accelerate our nation’s transition to a more sustainable and secure energy future.”

By leveraging federal, state, and private investments, this funding will save Maryland families and businesses over $370 million on energy costs over the life of the investments and reduce CO2 emissions by over 2,000,000 tons, which is equivalent to taking nearly 360,000 cars off the road.

“The State Energy Program funding will help Maryland reduce its dependence on foreign energy while also reducing carbon emissions,” said Senator Benjamin Cardin, a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. “It also will help create new jobs and enable Maryland families and businesses to achieve real energy savings.”

For this fiscal year, largely funded by the State Energy Program announced today, the Maryland Energy Administration will provide energy retrofits for more than 2,750 low and moderate income families, issue renewable energy grants to an estimated 1,700 Marylanders for solar, wind and geothermal systems at their homes, and jumpstart a new low interest loan energy makeover program for all residential and commercial customers. Together with programs for green collar job training, commercial and industrial energy retrofits, alternative transportation fuels, and commercial scale renewables, these investments will save each year 70,000 MWh of electricity, produce over 20,000 MWh of renewable energy and displace 2.4 million gallons of conventional gasoline.
“With new State Energy Program funding available today, Maryland will continue to lead the way in advancing clean energy,” said Rep. Steny Hoyer. “This funding will reduce energy costs for Maryland families and small businesses, and it will create the clean energy jobs of the future.”

“Maryland is consistently a leader in clean energy and energy efficiency policies and programs,” remarked MEA Director Malcolm Woolf. “With the additional State Energy Program funding, our new programs and expanded existing energy programs will put more Marylanders to work through the creation of green collar jobs and help us meet the O’Malley-Brown Administration’s aggressive EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate goals. This truly is an exciting time to be a part of our One Maryland.”

These states and territories are receiving 40 percent of their total State Energy Program funding authorized under the Recovery Act today. They will now have received 50 percent of their total Recovery Act State Energy Program funding. The initial ten percent of total funding was previously available to states to support planning activities. The remaining 50 percent of funds will be released once they meet reporting, oversight, and accountability milestones required by the Recovery Act.

Maryland is awarded $20,708,880 today, and will receive an additional $26 million upon demonstrating successful implementation of its plan.

Earlier this year, Governor O’Malley announced a plan to move Maryland forward toward the goal of creating 100,000 green collar jobs in Maryland by 2015. These goals will be additionally supported by President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For clean energy alone, Maryland will receive $61 million for weatherization, $52 million to help local authorities with energy efficiency improvements, and $51.8 million which will support an array of State clean energy initiatives, including solar and geothermal grants and home energy retrofits to help Maryland families save on their energy bills.

In the past two years, the O’Malley-Brown Administration has set some of the most ambitious goals in America for reducing energy consumption 15 percent by 2015, partly by raising the state’s renewable portfolio standard and leading the charge for America’s first ever cap-and-trade auction of greenhouse gases. In addition, the O’Malley-Brown Administration has passed landmark clean cars legislation, created incentives to help homeowners and businesses utilize green energy, and this past session, passed legislation which set ambitious goals for reducing our carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gases 25 percent by 2020.

For more information on the Clean Energy Programs in Maryland, visit www.Energy.Maryland.Gov.

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Additional Press Releases
Governor O'Malley Releases Thousands of Suggestions to Continue Reforming Maryland's State Government

Thousands of comments received from the Public; New webpage will allow Public to discuss budget suggestions

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 14, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today released thousands of suggestions submitted by the public to continue reforming Maryland’s State government. Governor O’Malley called for public comments after cutting $280M from Maryland’s state budget in mid-July. Over the last few weeks, the Governor has received thousands of suggestions from individuals and families throughout Maryland as he continues to make Maryland’s State government more accountable and more effective. By Labor Day, cuts to Maryland’s state budget will exceed $4 billion – bringing state spending below FY 2007 levels.

“Together we have chosen to restore fiscal responsibility, reduce the size of government and reform long-neglected state agencies so that they can more effectively provide critical services to the people of our State,” said Governor O’Malley. “We have made real progress together to improve our quality of life in Maryland – even as we have weathered one of the most severe economic recessions in our nation’s history.”

“I am grateful for all the suggestions we have received over the last two weeks. We are in the process of reviewing all of the suggestions and each suggestion has been forwarded to the appropriate state agency for review and consideration; and I have asked that state agencies respond to all suggestions by September 15.”

The budget suggestions can be found on a new webpage, www.governor.maryland.gov/budgetcuts.asp, which introduces a new web-based discussion forum that allows the Citizens of Maryland to continue discussing ways to make Maryland’s government more efficient and effective. “I hope the people of Maryland will continue to offer feedback on ways we can continue reforming Maryland’s state government,” stated O’Malley.

In addition to providing a full list of the thousands of suggestions, the website highlights the most frequently made suggestions, outlines the latest budget cuts, highlights the impact of the national recession on Maryland, and compares Maryland’s fiscal circumstances to other states.

Additional Press Releases
Governor Martin O'Malley delivered the keynote address today before the Maryland Association of Counties Annual Summer Conference, where he addressed the challenges and opportunities that Maryland’s State government faces and the value of local partnerships. In this context, the Governor highlighted the many points of progress that together with local partners, achieving a fundamental reform of State government in the two and a half years since taking office.

“I would submit to you that today, our biggest challenge is also our biggest opportunity: to continue the fundamental reform of our state government in Maryland, not so that it will do less for our families, but so it will do more with less. Over the last two years, that’s exactly what we have done, working together, to give the citizens of our state, a government that they deserve. A government that works,” said Governor O’Malley. “We have made real progress toward these shared priorities, even as we’ve weathered the most severe national recession in a generation. And together we’ve achieved this progress while choosing to restore fiscal responsibility – reducing the size of state government while reforming long-neglected state agencies so that they can more effectively provide critical services to the people of our State.”

Under the O’Malley-Brown Administration, State government spending has been reduced by more than $4 billion. For the first time in thirty years, the State budget is lower than it was three years prior. “Make no mistake about it, our state government is smaller today than it was three years ago. And yet, the progress we have made reforming our state government is undeniable.”

Governor O’Malley addressed the overall state of Maryland’s economy, including the impact of many of the tough choices made to restore fiscal accountability to Annapolis.

“The best days in life are not always the easiest days,” he said. “And during easier days in our State, as Democrats and Republican alike, we often failed to make the best decisions for our families and for our future; all too often failing to drive progress when our state coffers were full – neglecting to address our structural deficit, neglecting to invest in our transportation infrastructure; neglecting to establish real milestones in our efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay; and neglecting to reform long-overlooked state agencies that provide critical public services.”

The Governor noted that economic experts believe that the economic resurgence is most likely to benefit the sectors of health care, sustainability, and information technology, which are all areas where Maryland excels and enjoys a competitive advantage. Education and health services sectors in Maryland grew by 2.5 percent last year, gaining 9,400 jobs. Maryland’s professional, scientific, and technical services sector gained 4,200 jobs.

In the midst of one of the most severe economic downturns since the Great Depression, Governor O’Malley cautioned the audience not to lose sight of the long-term impact today’s budget decisions could have.

“If we’re going to remain the best public school system in America, and if we’re going to compete to be the best in the world, it will require a combination of resources, cooperation, and a government that works. It will require both landmark investments in the construction modern class rooms, and a new, landmark emphasis on the all-important STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and math – these areas where American students are falling behind our global competitors,” said Governor O’Malley.

He continued, “If we allow ourselves to use this recession as an excuse to drop the ball on saving the Chesapeake Bay,
protecting rural and agriculture lands, or advancing clean energy, we will lose things we can never get back – whether it’s our natural treasures, the health of our fellow citizens, or the vast economic potential we see in the emerging green economy.”

Highlighting the importance of achieving true government reform even in tough economic times, Governor O’Malley concluded, “Our economy here in Maryland and across our country will rebound, and there will come a day when we have more resources – and therefore are able to do a little more to advance our shared priorities more quickly. But until that day comes, we aren’t able to put our challenges on hold; nor our opportunities. The stakes are too high and the struggles our families are facing too severe. And thus, we continue finding ways to strengthen our connections and partnerships; choosing together a government that works for our families, and for our shared future.”

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACO) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that includes representatives from Maryland’s 23 counties and Baltimore City meets holds its annual summer conference in Ocean City, Maryland. During the conference, attendees from every Maryland jurisdiction have an opportunity to attend workshops, policy presentations, and gather with other elected officials to form partnerships and learn about innovations in governance.
Governor O'Malley Swears in Members of Maryland Economic Development Commission

O'Malley checks-in with small businesses in Annapolis for Ceremony

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 18, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley today presided over the official swearing-in of the Maryland Economic Development Commission, re-launching the defunct Commission at a time when private economic investment is needed most. The Commission, which was first created in 1995 but has been inactive since 2006, is comprised of 25 members that will help shape Maryland’s business policy, regulation and legislation. As part of its mission, the Commission will develop a 10-year strategic plan for Maryland’s economy, solicit input from businesses from each region of the state and provide recommendations to the Governor on current and potential issues impacting Maryland’s businesses.

“The Maryland Economic Development Commission will play a vital role in charting a course for Maryland’s economic future,” said Governor O’Malley. “We are fortunate to have brought together some of Maryland’s greatest visionaries in science, education and business from every region of the State to undertake this important mission and I look forward to learning their recommendations for how we can best support Maryland’s business community.”

Commission members serve staggered three-year terms. Chairing the Commission will be Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who is currently Senior Advisor for Johns Hopkins Medicine and Senior Fellow at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. From 2002 to 2008, Dr. Zerhouni was the Director of the National Institutes of Health, where he successfully led a series of reforms that were adopted by Congress in the NIH Reform Act of 2006.

“It’s an honor for me to lead this Commission of my fellow Marylanders dedicated to strengthening Maryland’s economy,” said Dr. Zerhouni. “I look forward to working with Governor O’Malley and my Commission members to develop a long-range strategic plan to build on Maryland’s unparalleled assets.”

Governor O’Malley recently launched a series of small business “check-in” roundtable discussions, where small business owners have an opportunity to meet informally with Governor O’Malley and members of the Administration to discuss relevant topics, including the impact of the national recession on local small businesses, the need for health care reform so employees of small businesses can have access to affordable, quality health care, and the many resources and services available to Maryland companies looking to grow.

Recently, Governor O’Malley announced the creation of the Small Business Task Force, which will be comprised of 15 small business owners from around Maryland. The Task Force will serve as the Governor’s sounding board on small business issues and will be tasked with providing recommendations to improve State services and resources available to Maryland small businesses, so that they may operate more efficiently and effectively.

The current and new board members are:

Timothy Adams, Founder and CEO
SA-Tech, Inc.

Deepak Bansal (current member)
Senior Information Technology Consultant

Richard Bernstein, President and CEO,
LWRC International, LL

Steve Dubin, CEO
Martek Biosciences Corp.

Susan Ganz, CEO
Lion Brothers, Inc.

Edwin Hale, Sr., Chairman and CEO
1st Mariner Bancorp

Timothy Hodge, Esq., Principal (current member)
Miles and Stockbridge

Kevin Johnson, CEO
Commercial Interiors

William “Britt” Kirwan, Ph.D., Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Aris Mardirossian, CEO (current member)
Technology Patents, LLC

Ricardo Martinez, Chairman and CEO
Project Enhancement Corp.

John McLaughlin, President and CEO
DAP Products, Inc.

Karen Myers, President
Wisp Resort Development, Inc.
Mountaineer Log and Siding Company

Sagar Patel, President
GE Mechanical Systems

Ronald Peterson, President/Vice President
Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System/Johns Hopkins Medicine

Dawn Deiter Rich, President/Vice President
American Electronics, Inc./Deiter, Burris Associates, Inc.

Robert “Bob” Smelkinson, Chairman (Retired) (current member)
Smelkinson Sysco Food Services Inc.

Edward St. John, President
St. John Properties

Harold Stinger, Chairman
Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies
Walter (Butch) Tilley III, Executive Vice President (current member)
Home Paramount, Inc.

Alan Wilson, Chairman, President and CEO
McCormick & Company, Inc.

Ex-Officio Members

Christian Johansson, Secretary
MD Dept of Business and Economic Development

Harold Adams, Chairman Emeritus/Chairman,
RTKL Associates, Inc., International Advisory Board

James C. Dinegar, President and CEO
Greater Washington Board of Trade

Donald C. Fry, President
Greater Baltimore Committee

Kevin F. Kelly, Vice President/Chairman
Van Skoyoc Associates/Federal Facilities Advisory Board

Additional Press Releases
LARGO, MD (August 24, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley today highlighted public health efforts, including a new acute-care hospital disease and bio-terrorism surveillance system and $18.1 million in funding for a state-of-the-art Health Studies Center at Prince George’s Community College. The announcement comes as Maryland acknowledges seventh H1N1-related death as health officials continue preparations for an expected increase in the virus and seasonal flu in the coming months.

“Protecting the health and safety of every Maryland family now and in the future means that we must invest in the education and training of our next generation of health care professionals,” said Governor Martin O'Malley. “We are preparing to face the serious health challenge of H1N1 flu in the months ahead. We do so as we launch our ESSENCE surveillance system with 100 percent of Maryland hospitals participating. Protecting the health of the people of Maryland must remain among our core priorities even in difficult economic times.”

Governor O'Malley's announcements today come following a tour of the Prince George's Community College Health Sciences Division with students. There, the Governor announced $18.1 million in funding for a new, state-of-the-art Health Studies Center, including Nursing Unit, Mock ICU, Paramedic Lab and Health Information Lab. This funding is part of an overall investment of $23.3 million in Prince George's Community College, illustrating the O'Malley-Brown Administration's commitment to higher education and to strengthening the state's outreach efforts in industries experiencing growth even during tough times, including health and life sciences.

Economic experts believe that the economic resurgence is most likely to benefit the sectors of health care, sustainability, and information technology, which are all areas where Maryland excels and enjoys a competitive advantage. Education and health services sectors in Maryland grew by 2.5 percent last year, gaining 9,400 jobs. Maryland’s professional, scientific, and technical services sector gained 4,200 jobs.
“Today's students will be facing similar serious health care challenges when they graduate,” said John M. Colmers, Secretary for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. “While Maryland is, for the moment, experiencing a brief lull in reported cases of H1N1 (swine) flu, we are preparing for the worst in the face many unknown variables. Will the virus mutate into something more serious? Will enough people get a seasonal flu shot and H1N1 vaccinations to help stop the spread of flu before it infects tens of thousands of residents? These are questions Maryland’s public and private health professionals are working on to protect people from getting sick or dying in the coming flu season.”

Maryland is the first state in the nation with 100 percent voluntary statewide hospital participation in ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics) by 46 acute-care hospitals. The computer-based ESSENCE system gathers symptom data reported in hospital emergency rooms to track disease outbreaks, public health emergencies and suspicious patterns of illness that could serve as an early warning for chemical and bio-terrorism attacks.

In addition to the ESSENCE system, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has made steady progress to enhance the state of Maryland’s homeland security and emergency preparedness, including, for the first time, the development of a fully interoperable communications system for all local and state public safety and emergency response agencies throughout Maryland. Maryland has also established stockpiles of antiviral medications to protect Maryland’s state and local first responders, healthcare workers, and critical infrastructure sector.

The daily reporting of emergency room data and the ESSENCE tracking of over-the-counter medications at hundreds of Maryland pharmacies is currently being combined with other disease surveillance techniques to monitor the spread of H1N1 swine flu across the state.

Based on CDC figures, it is estimated that 1,000 Marylanders die every year from seasonal flu or its complications. Complications and death are more common among those with serious underlying health conditions.

According to the CDC, people at a higher risk of serious health consequences from the H1N1 flu virus are the same as those with seasonal flu:

- Children less than 5 years old
- Persons aged 65 years or older
- Pregnant women
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities
- Adults and children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders
- Adults and children who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by HIV)
- Children and adolescents (less than 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection
As with seasonal flu, the best protection from contracting or spreading the novel H1N1 flu virus is to practice good personal hygiene:

- Wash your hands often, especially after coughing, sneezing, and wiping or blowing the nose
- If you have flu symptoms, stay home and avoid contact with other people to protect them from catching your illness.
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Use paper tissues when wiping or blowing your nose; throw tissues away after use
- Stay away from crowded living and sleeping spaces, if possible

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Additional Press Releases
Governor Outlines $454 Million in Budget Cuts

Governor renews commitment to protecting schools, Maryland families

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 25, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley outlined more than $450 million in budget reductions that will be presented to Maryland’s Board of Public Works tomorrow. These actions are the second step in addressing a projected budget shortfall of more than $700 million for Fiscal Year 2010, and bring the total amount of reduced spending and budget cuts under the O’Malley-Brown Administration to over $4.3 billion.

“These are not easy decisions. Just as families, businesses, and individuals across Maryland struggle to find ways to tighten their belts, our state government must do more with less,” said Governor O’Malley. “Our citizens expect and deserve a government that works, and in spite of the most severe recession in a generation we’ve been working to reform our State government to make more efficient and effective.”

Governor O’Malley, joined earlier today by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and Maryland Secretary of Budget and Management Eloise Foster, made public the details of a plan to reduce the budget by more than $450 million. These budget actions focus on over $210 million in reductions to local aid, a furlough and salary reduction plan for state employees, and reductions to state agencies, protecting entirely investments made in Maryland public schools. General fund support for public education has increased nearly $700 million since FY07, while spending for the remainder of the Operating Budget has decreased more than $1 billion.

Budget reductions to be presented to the Board of Public Works include $17 million in savings from the elimination of over 360 state positions, including 205 filled positions. The furlough and salary reduction plan, estimated to save approximately $75 million, prevents the layoff of about 1,500 additional state employees.

In July, over $280 million in budget actions were unanimously approved by the Board of Public Works. These cuts represent the first incidence in at least thirty years that state spending will be less than it was three years ago.

Despite historically challenging economic times, Maryland remains poised to come through this national recession more quickly than other states. Maryland is home to one of America’s most highly skilled workforces, holds an unemployment rate consistently 20 percent below the national average, and is one of only seven states to defend a highly coveted Triple A bond rating.

View the presentation Governor O’Malley made public today.

View a detailed accounting of local aid reductions.

View a detailed breakdown of furlough and salary reduction plan.
August Actions - Round 2 $454 Million

- Board of Public Works Presentation (pdf) 8.26.09
- State Agency Budget Reductions (pdf) August, 2009
- Total Local Aid fy2010 (pdf)
- State Employee Actions

View Citizen Suggestions

July Actions - Round 1
$282 Million

- Board of Public Works Approves $280 Million in Budget Cuts
- View powerpoint presentation of 7.22.09 BPW Briefing
- Summary of Proposed July 2009 BPW Budget Cuts
Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley Following the Death of Senator Edward Kennedy

ANNAPOLIS, MD (August 26, 2009) – Governor Martin O’Malley issued this statement today following the passing of Senator Edward Kennedy:

“The Irish poet John O’Donohue taught us that the most powerful type of presence that any person can bring to this world is the presence of compassion.

“Senator Edward Kennedy had that presence of compassion. With his passing, today our country has lost a great champion of progress.

“Senator Kennedy worked very hard to make this world a more just and more fair place. It was his calling, his discipline and his craft. His colleagues from both sides of the aisle had a tremendous amount of respect for him because of his presence of compassion, because of his discipline, because of his hard work, because of his adeptness at forging consensus, and because of his belief that each of us can make a difference in this world.

“He was a great man for many reasons. His hard work and presence of compassion will be missed both in the United States Senate and in the lives of all Americans. His footprint on the history of our nation includes some of the most historic social justice initiatives of our time, including his enduring struggle to instill quality healthcare as a right for all Americans, not a privilege for the wealthy.

“My heartfelt condolences go out to the Kennedy family, the Shriver family, the Townsend family, to all those who knew him personally, and to the millions of Americans who are mourning his passing.”

Additional Press Releases
Governor O'Malley Declares Cecil County Maryland's 'Capital for a Day'

NORTH EAST, MD (August 27, 2009) – Today, Governor Martin O’Malley, Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and Maryland’s Executive Cabinet joined Cecil County Commission President Brian Lockhart, Delegate David Rudolph, other local officials in Cecil County, declaring it Maryland’s “Capital for a Day.” The monthly program brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities.

“I want to thank the people of Cecil County for their hospitality today. I’m proud to bring members of our Cabinet to this beautiful corner of our State, and officially proclaim it Maryland’s ‘Capital for a Day,’” said Governor O’Malley, making his announcement during a Cabinet Meeting held at Fairwinds Farm in North East. “It’s important for families across Maryland to know that their government is working for them – putting families first and fighting to expand the safety net for working families during these difficult economic times. Strengthening our local partnerships is absolutely critical to the progress of areas like Cecil County.”

“Now more than ever, it is important that we protect the partnerships that have made progress during difficult times possible. Over the last three years, we have made difficult decisions but because of our partnerships with local and municipal leaders in Cecil County and across the state, we are confident that we will get through these tough times more quickly than other states,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “I thank the people of Cecil County for inviting their state government into their community and look forward to continuing our shared efforts to protect, preserve and improve Maryland’s quality of life.”

Even in difficult economic times, development and progress continues in many parts of Cecil County built on the foundation of a strong partnership with the State. The County has received more than $110 million in FY2010 for K-12 education, representing a 15 percent increase since FY2007, and more than $13.7 million for school construction over the last three years. These investments are paying off. In 2008, every grade in both reading and math outperformed their previous three years scores on the Maryland School Assessments.

“Capital for a day provides a tremendous opportunity for Cecil County officials to connect with the Governor and his Cabinet face to face on issues critical to the county and towns,” said Brian Lockhart, President of the Cecil County Commissioners. “It allows the governor and cabinet to see first hand the opportunities and challenges we
Governor O’Malley began the day with an official Cabinet Meeting at Fairwinds Farm in North East, a signature event at all “Capital for a Day” events throughout Maryland. The Cabinet Meeting also included person testimony from Commissioner Lockhart, Mayor John Bunnell of Cecilton, and Delegate David Rudolph on specific local issues and challenges.

Later, Governor O’Malley joined Lieutenant Governor Brown and several Cabinet Members for a visit to the Cecil County School of Technology. There, Governor O’Malley met with students and took questions about future career opportunities. Joined by Superintendent Shaffer and Principal Erbe, the Governor are from the school buffet and heard from faculty, staff, and students about the curriculum offered at the school and the types of careers the students are preparing for. The School offers unique programs such as Carpentry, Electrical Trades, Natural Resources, and Welding & Metals Technologies, which is recognized as the best program of its kind in the State.

Governor O’Malley then walked Main Street with local economic development officials, meeting with local merchants and shop owners along the way. The Governor stopped in shops including Herb’s Tackle Shop, 5 & 10 Antiques, Saffron Creek, Serendipity and others. The tour, which began at Town Hall, ended at Highborne Café on Main Street, where he and members of the Cabinet met with local small business owners for a small business “check-in.” The ground discussed challenges to small businesses in the current economic climate, and services the State can provide to struggling businesses.

The O’Malley-Brown Administration has made progress for Maryland’s small businesses, even in difficult economic times. Last year, Governor O’Malley launched a highly successful program to partner with State agencies, health insurers and small businesses so that more families working in our tremendous small business community can gain access to premium health insurance benefits. In addition, the O’Malley-Brown Administration is committed to Maryland’s women and minority-owned businesses, increasing State awards to MBE firms by more than $300 million since taking office.

“Capital for a Day,” a program launched by Governor O’Malley in 2007, brings the State Capital to every corner of Maryland through a series of monthly events across a diverse selection of Maryland cities, towns and communities. Previous “Capitals” have included Calvert County, Westminster, Hagerstown, Chestertown, Leonardtown, the Port Towns of Prince George’s County, Cumberland, Pocomoke City, Gaithersburg and Ellicott City.
Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Tax Amnesty Holiday

DUNDALE, MD (August 31, 2009) – Governor Martin O'Malley, joined today by Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, Ronald Wineholt of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, and others to announce Maryland's first tax amnesty holiday since 2001. The amnesty period, which begins September 1 and runs through October 30, is a result of legislation passed during the 2009 legislative session and allows those Marylanders who owe back taxes to the state to pay those taxes free of penalty and at half the interest accrued.

“This tax amnesty holiday allows individuals, families, and small businesses who may have fallen behind the opportunity to make things right without excessive penalty or interest,” said Governor O'Malley. “Consistent with many of the suggestions we’ve received from members of the public, we’re implementing this holiday as we work to reform our government in these difficult economic times to make it more efficient and effective for the people of Maryland.”

“Governor O’Malley has forged the partnerships and made the difficult choices that are required during tough economic times and he understands that Maryland’s working families are struggling every day to do more with less,” Lt. Governor Brown said. “The tax amnesty provides those individuals who have fallen behind during these tough times to get caught up without penalty and help Maryland keep its promise to future generations. While the choices we have made have been difficult, they are choices that will help us survive this recession and thrive for decades to come.”

It is estimated that for every $10 million raised by the upcoming holiday the State will add $7.2 million to the General Fund. The remaining revenue will go toward local governments and the Transportation Trust Fund. During the last such holiday in 2001, the State collected $39.5 million in revenue.

“Tax amnesty is a win-win for Marylanders and their government. It gives families and businesses that have fallen behind as a result of the global recession a one-time opportunity to avoid penalties, and the State an opportunity to collect sorely-needed revenue,” said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. “On behalf of working families and small businesses in Maryland, I want to thank Senator Ed DeGrange for championing this issue during the legislative session.”

“The economic meltdown caught many people by surprise, leaving many families and small businesses to struggle to make ends meet,” said Senator James (Ed) DeGrange, Sr. “This program creates a one-time opportunity for these people to come forward without facing penalties, so that they can get back on track.”

It is estimated that approximately 177,000 individual income tax accounts and 18,000 business tax accounts are delinquent in the State of Maryland, accounting for as much as a half billion dollars. This two month amnesty period provides payment plan options for the Maryland Comptroller’s office. In order to be eligible for the 2009 holiday, all payments must be received by December 31, 2010.

“Tax amnesty gives a second chance to Marylanders wanting to do the right thing and comply with the law,” said Speaker Michael E. Busch. “I commend the Governor and the legislature for recognizing the value of a program like this during these tough economic times.”

“The tax amnesty program is an innovative way for the state to generate revenue without harming our hard working families, revenue which will help us avoid making millions more in painful reductions to vital services. I was proud to have been a part of its passage in the legislature,” said Delegate John Olszewski, a member of the Ways & Means Committee and in whose district today’s event took place.

“Governor O’Malley and the General Assembly have recognized that many small businesses are struggling to pay their bills,” said Ron Wineholt, Vice President for Government Affairs with the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. “Therefore,
we strongly urge any business that has fallen behind on their state tax liability to take advantage of Maryland’s Tax Amnesty program. You’ll never get a better deal.”

The 2009 Maryland Tax Amnesty holiday is a result of the passage of SB552, sponsored by Senator James DeGrange and signed into law by Governor O’Malley in May. The holiday applies to income, sales, withholding and other taxes, allowing citizens to pay back-taxes free of penalties and one-half the interest due.

For more information about the tax amnesty holiday, visit the Maryland Comptroller’s website at www.marylandtaxes.com, call 1-800-MDTAXES, or visit www.maryland.gov.

Additional Press Releases