
By: **Senators Dyson and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2005

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission to Study Southern Maryland
4 Transportation Needs; providing for the membership and staffing of the
5 Commission; requiring the Commission to coordinate with the Tri-County
6 Council's Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee; requiring the
7 Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to provide technical and staff
8 support for the Commission; requiring the Commission to study and make
9 recommendations with regard to certain aspects of transportation in certain
10 areas of the State; prohibiting members of the Commission from receiving
11 certain compensation but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;
12 requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the
13 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for
14 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission to Study
15 Southern Maryland Transportation Needs.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation
19 Needs.

20 (b) The Commission consists of the following 18 members:

21 (1) the President of the Senate of Maryland, or the President's designee;

22 (2) the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or the Speaker's designee;

23 (3) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

24 (4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's
25 designee;

26 (5) the representative to the U.S. Congress from the 5th district of
27 Maryland, or the representative's designee;

1 (6) one county commissioner from St. Mary's County selected by the St.
2 Mary's County Commissioners;

3 (7) one county commissioner from Charles County selected by the
4 Charles County Commissioners;

5 (8) one county commissioner from Calvert County selected by the
6 Calvert County Commissioners;

7 (9) one member of the Prince George's County Council selected by the
8 Prince George's County Council;

9 (10) one member of the Anne Arundel County Council selected by the
10 Anne Arundel County Council; and

11 (11) the two senators and six delegates representing State legislative
12 districts 28 and 29.

13 (c) The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman of the
14 Commission at its first meeting.

15 (d) The Commission shall coordinate with the Tri-County Council's Regional
16 Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

17 (e) (1) The State agencies represented on the Commission shall provide staff
18 for the Commission.

19 (2) The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland shall provide
20 technical and staff support for the Commission.

21 (f) A member of the Commission:

22 (1) may not receive compensation; but

23 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
24 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

25 (g) The Commission shall:

26 (1) review the study prepared by the Maryland Department of
27 Transportation regarding mass transit in Southern Maryland under Chapter 594,
28 Acts of 1998, the Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Strategy, the MD
29 5/U.S. 301 Transit Service Staging Plan, and any other relevant mass transit studies
30 and plans;

31 (2) study the Southern Maryland rail transit alternatives, including a
32 light rail transit system in the Maryland Route 5 corridor from White Plains to
33 Branch Avenue;

1 (3) study the current and future impact of traffic congestion in Southern
2 Maryland, including traffic levels on roads including U.S. Route 301 and Maryland
3 Routes 2/4, 4, 5, 210, 228, 235, and 260;

4 (4) make recommendations on potential strategies, including roadway
5 improvements and mass transit, including light rail transit to reduce traffic
6 congestion on the roads specified in item (3) of this subsection and throughout the
7 Southern Maryland region;

8 (5) study and make recommendations regarding the amount of funding
9 necessary to implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland;

10 (6) assess the barriers to implementing roadway improvements and
11 mass transit, including light rail service, in Southern Maryland and make
12 recommendations to address those barriers; and

13 (7) make recommendations for potential funding mechanisms to
14 implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland.

15 (h) The Commission may:

16 (1) conduct site visits to view rail transportation systems in Maryland;

17 (2) request information from representatives of CSX Corporation
18 relating to existing rail lines in Southern Maryland;

19 (3) include in its study those communities in Prince George's County
20 that lie directly adjacent to St. Mary's and Charles counties and which might be
21 impacted by the Commission's recommendations; and

22 (4) hold public hearings to receive comments from interested parties.

23 (i) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the
24 Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General
25 Assembly on or before November 1, 2006.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June
28 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
29 abrogated and of no further force and effect.