

SENATE BILL 900

R2

4lr2389

By: **Senators Hershey and Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Department of Transportation – Highway Needs Inventory – Four-Lane Highways

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to include in the highway needs inventory a highway with two or more lanes in each direction for any county that did not have, as of a certain date, a four-lane highway that fully bisects the county; requiring the Administration to engage project planning for a highway with two or more lanes in each direction in the highway needs inventory for any county that did not have, as of a certain date, a four-lane highway that fully bisects the county; and generally relating to inclusion of certain four-lane highways in the highway needs inventory.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 8–610(d) and (i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 8–611 and 8–612(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

8–610.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(d) “Highway needs inventory” means an identification of needs for highway projects, based on the latest evaluation of highway conditions and transportation needs by the Administration.

(i) “Project planning phase” means the phase in which engineering and environmental studies and analyses are conducted with full participation of the public, in addition to local, State, and federal agencies, to determine the scope and location of a proposed highway project.

8–611.

(a) The Administration shall furnish members of the General Assembly and the Governor with:

(1) Current information on highway needs; and

(2) Information necessary for the development of the State Report on Transportation, as provided in § 2–103.1 of this article.

(b) (1) **(I)** In calendar year 1979 and in each second year following, the Administration, following an assessment of the highway conditions and transportation needs of this State, shall prepare those proposed modifications to the highway needs inventory that it considers necessary.

(II) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL INCLUDE IN THE HIGHWAY NEEDS INVENTORY A HIGHWAY WITH TWO OR MORE TRAFFIC LANES IN EACH DIRECTION FOR ANY COUNTY THAT, ON JANUARY 1, 2014, DID NOT HAVE A HIGHWAY WITH TWO OR MORE TRAFFIC LANES IN EACH DIRECTION THAT FULLY BISECTS THE COUNTY.

(2) By July 1, 1997, the Administration, in cooperation with local governments, shall inventory State and local facilities near rail stops, light rail stops, and subway stations to determine what improvements are needed to accommodate in a safe and effective manner pedestrians and bicycles within a reasonable distance for walking and bicycling.

(3) In preparing the proposed modifications, the Administration shall provide a copy of the proposal to and consult with the local governing body, municipalities, and local legislative delegations with respect to the proposed modifications.

(4) The Administration shall provide a copy of the State Report on Transportation to each county and municipality prior to consultation.

8–612.

(a) (1) The Administration [may]:

(I) **MAY** engage in project planning for any item in the current highway needs inventory and for each item, shall conduct studies to determine, among other things, the scale, location, environmental impact, and citizen reaction; **AND**

(II) **SHALL ENGAGE IN PROJECT PLANNING FOR A HIGHWAY IN THE HIGHWAY NEEDS INVENTORY FOR ANY COUNTY THAT, ON JANUARY 1, 2014, DID NOT HAVE A HIGHWAY WITH TWO OR MORE TRAFFIC LANES IN EACH DIRECTION THAT FULLY BISECTS THE COUNTY.**

(2) During the project planning phase, the Administration shall consult with the local governing body, municipalities, and local legislative delegation.

(3) The Administration may include in its annual budget request the funds required to implement the project planning provided for in this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.