

SENATE BILL 1099

R1

EMERGENCY BILL

6lr3472
CF HB 1562

By: **Senators Feldman, Kagan, King, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, Raskin, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2016

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, March 2, 2016

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 18, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highway Administration – Watkins Mill Road Interchange Project**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to undertake all steps
4 necessary to complete the Watkins Mill Road Interchange Project; specifying certain
5 requirements for the Project; requiring the Governor to appropriate a certain amount
6 of funding for the Project; stating the intent of the General Assembly; requiring the
7 Administration to submit an annual report to certain committees of the General
8 Assembly; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the
9 Watkins Mill Road Interchange Project.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Transportation

12 Section 8–657

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly approved full funding, design, and
17 construction of the Watkins Mill Road Interchange in the Consolidated Transportation
18 Program (CTP) for fiscal years 2015 through 2020, including \$159.4 million for the project,
19 a projected start date of spring 2016, and projected completion in spring 2019; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, The CTP for fiscal years 2016 through 2021 has substantially altered
2 the original project by decreasing funding by \$30 million, delaying construction and
3 completion, and significantly decreasing the scope of the project in terms of traffic relief
4 and promotion of economic development; and

5 WHEREAS, The Watkins Mill Road Interchange as originally planned will support
6 increased economic development, reduce existing congestion at the I-270 and Maryland
7 124 interchange, and provide access from I-270 to the Metropolitan Grove MARC Station;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Watkins Mill Road Interchange will bring over 250,000 square feet
10 of mixed-use real estate, 930,000 square feet of office space, and 400 hotel rooms; and

11 WHEREAS, Several approved projects are contingent on a full diamond interchange
12 to bring critical traffic relief to the area, including a FedEx distribution center estimated
13 to bring 300 new jobs to the region, an expansion of Lockheed Martin offices and
14 employment, and a relocation of the headquarters of the National Humane Society of the
15 United States; and

16 WHEREAS, The area adjacent to the Watkins Mill Road Interchange has attracted
17 significant employers that made investment decisions that presumed construction of a full
18 interchange based on public commitments by the State of Maryland and a \$4.9 million
19 investment from Montgomery County; and

20 WHEREAS, Properties on the east and west sides of I-270 at the location of the
21 proposed highway improvement have become hubs for biotechnology companies and
22 professional services; and

23 WHEREAS, Failure to construct the original full interchange at Watkins Mill Road
24 will forfeit hundreds of jobs and untold revenue from increased economic development in
25 the surrounding area; and

26 WHEREAS, Failure to honor the commitments made by the State to Montgomery
27 County would compromise the project and decrease the potential for much needed jobs and
28 economic growth in the upcounty region of Montgomery County; now, therefore,

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

31 **Article – Transportation**

32 **8-657.**

33 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “WATKINS MILL ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT”**
34 **MEANS THE PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT A NEW I-270 INTERCHANGE AT WATKINS MILL**

1 ROAD DESCRIBED IN THE CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR
2 FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2020 UNDER STIP REFERENCE #MO8391.

3 (B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE
4 ADMINISTRATION PROMPTLY UNDERTAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE
5 THE PLANNING, ENGINEERING, RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION
6 FOR THE WATKINS MILL ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
7 CONSOLIDATED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH
8 2020.

9 (C) (1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPROPRIATE THE FUNDS NECESSARY IN
10 FISCAL YEARS 2017 THROUGH 2019 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATKINS
11 MILL ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT.

12 (2) THE APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
13 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSOLIDATED
14 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2020.

15 (D) THE WATKINS MILL ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT SHALL BE
16 CONSTRUCTED AND COMMENCE OPERATION ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2019.

17 (E) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR UNTIL COMPLETION OF
18 THE WATKINS MILL ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
19 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL
20 SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE WATKINS MILL ROAD INTERCHANGE
21 PROJECT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE
22 FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE
23 HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

24 (2) THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
25 INCLUDE:

26 (I) AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT;

27 (II) ANY REVISED ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE
28 PROJECT AND A STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR ANY COST SAVINGS OR COST
29 INCREASES;

30 (III) A DESCRIPTION OF ANY CHANGES TO THE PROJECT;

31 (IV) PLANNED EXPENDITURES BY YEAR, CATEGORIZED BY
32 PLANNING AND ENGINEERING, RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, UTILITY RELOCATION,

1 PERMITS, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OTHER CATEGORIES AS DETERMINED BY
2 THE ADMINISTRATION;

3 (V) FUNDING SOURCES BY YEAR, CATEGORIZED BY:

4 1. FEDERAL FUNDS;

5 2. SPECIAL FUNDS;

6 3. LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS; AND

7 4. ANY OTHER REVENUE SOURCE; AND

8 (VI) ANY OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WATKINS
9 MILL ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS
10 PERTINENT.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
12 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
13 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
14 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
15 enacted.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.