

May 24, 2019

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madam Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 1281 *Transportation – Bikeways Network Program and Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan*.

In the final days of the legislative session, language was unfortunately added to House Bill 1281 that fundamentally and inexplicably changes the scope of the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan, creates unnecessary and costly bureaucratic hurdles, risks federal funding, and impedes our progress to improve transit services in the Central Maryland region.

Less than a year after the original 2018 legislation took effect, House Bill 1281 significantly changes the course of the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan by requiring entirely new analyses and details that interfere with the industry standard planning process. These new requirements risk jeopardizing future federal funding for projects that are identified in the final plan. The changes required by House Bill 1281 would also increase the cost of developing the plan by \$1 million for no discernible reason.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has expended significant resources establishing and preparing the existing Commission, which is comprised of a dozen local government, business, planning, citizen, and regional partnership representatives. These volunteers have already begun their work, meeting several times in 2019. By the effective date of HB 1281, they would be well into their work developing the Plan required by the legislation passed just last year.

My objections to this legislation do not extend to the items related to the Bikeways program. MDOT's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) contains \$167 million over the next six years for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects. The Bikeways program is one of several programs, each provides assistance to local governments at various stages of project development.

I have made it a top priority for my Administration to deliver a high-quality statewide multimodal transportation network that serves all Marylanders. To that

end, I have pledged to repair or replace all structurally deficient bridges, I have approved the largest P3 transit project in the nation, I continue to look for innovative transit and highway solutions for the traveling public, and have moved forward on long-delayed transportation projects in all parts of the State. MDOT under my Administration has more projects under construction than at any other time in Maryland's history.

We cannot afford to subject stewardship of transportation funds and complex, forward-thinking regional planning to the inconsistent and volatile whims of a process that risks federal funding, fails to solicit input from transportation professionals, and disregards the existing work of dedicated volunteer commissions.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1281.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan Jr.
Governor