A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project – Requirements and Funding

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Transportation promptly to undertake all steps necessary to complete the design, engineering, and National Environmental Policy Act process and secure a record of decision for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project; requiring the Governor to include in the annual State budget, for certain fiscal years, an appropriation of a certain amount from the Transportation Trust Fund for certain purposes; specifying that the appropriations may be reduced under certain circumstances and in accordance with certain requirements; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project.

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

(a) In this section, “Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project” means a high-capacity, fixed-route rapid transit service, with light rail transit as the preferred option, operating in a dedicated, grade-separated, 18.7-mile transitway in the Maryland Route 5/U.S. Route 301 corridor from the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station in Prince George’s County to Waldorf and White Plains in Charles County.

(b) The State Department of Transportation promptly shall undertake all steps necessary to complete the design, engineering, and National Environmental Policy Act process and secure a record of decision for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Governor shall include in the annual State budget an appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund for the requirements specified in subsection (b) of this section in amounts at least equal to:

(i) for fiscal year 2022, $12,000,000; and
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(ii) for fiscal year 2023, $15,000,000.

(2) The appropriations required under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be reduced by the amount of funding authorized in fiscal year 2021 to undertake the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.