

Chapter 739

(Senate Bill 81)

AN ACT concerning

Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project – 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.

BY adding toArticle – TransportationSection 7-713Annotated Code of Maryland(2020 Replacement Volume)

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

~~(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 2023, \$12,000,000; and~~

~~(ii) for fiscal year 2024, \$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 2022 to undertake the~~

~~Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section.~~

Article – Transportation

7-713.

(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) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT 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, IN EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2023 THROUGH 2027, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND OF AT LEAST \$5,000,000, CONTINGENT ON THE RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO BE USED TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS NEEDED TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDY UNDER THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) FOR THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT.

(2) AN APPROPRIATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF THE TOTAL AUTHORIZED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR TO CONDUCT THE NEPA STUDY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.