



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 1394 – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution
SUPPORT

The Mayor and Council are thankful to Chairman Barve of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to share written comments on HB 1394 – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution. The Rockville Mayor and Council in partnership with the Maryland Municipal League strongly support this legislation. We thank Delegate Anderton for his leadership.

HB 1394 is the solution that would bring permanent restoration of municipal HUR by:

- Removing the funding sunset currently set up to go into effect after FY 2024 when municipal highway user revenues (HUR) would revert to recession level lows;
- Increasing municipal HUR beginning in FY2025 to the approximate levels that existed prior to the massive State diversion in FY2010;
- Applying the same “lock box” protections afforded to the rest of the Transportation Trust Fund to the HUR account; and
- Tying HUR to the consumer price index so that the funds rise with inflation.

An important aspect of this bill is that there is no funding increase until FY2025. This timeline provides the State the time needed to adjust its funding allocations. However, two items that can be addressed immediately are removing the sunset set to take place and lock boxing the HUR account. These bill provisions would provide critical certainty to municipal governments that the funding is long term and protected.

We are very grateful to the General Assembly for approving in 2018 the approximately 85% restoration of municipal HURs in FY20-FY24. The increased funding is extremely helpful to Rockville and other municipalities who must maintain critical transportation infrastructure. The FY2020 Rockville allocation of approximately \$2.7 million is the highest it has been in over a decade. There are 102 bridges in the City of Rockville – vehicle and pedestrian and we maintain 367 lane miles and roads. However, with the sunset looming after 2024 it is difficult to engage in long term transportation project plans.

The increased funding in FY20 has enabled the City to make a larger investment in capital improvement projects including road and sidewalk projects, bridge maintenance, and pedestrian safety and traffic calming devices that help to keep our residents safe.

Municipalities must have surety in planning for transportation infrastructure that is integral to public safety and healthy local economies. 2020 is the year to re-engage the discussion of fully and permanently restoring highway user revenues to local governments. We urge the Committee to provide HB 1394 with a favorable report and forward it to the House floor.