

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 15, 2021

Senate Finance Committee

Re: SB 422 MTA – Vehicle Not Using Bridge – No Toll Payment Required

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for accepting this letter of support for SB 422. This bill would address specific concerns regarding the I-695 toll plaza where vehicles travelling from Broening Highway that want to access the outer loop of I-695 are required to pay a toll even though they do not go across the Francis Scott Key Bridge.

The local streets on which these heavy trucks are travelling are not prepared for the size and weight of these trucks. Their constant passage over these roads causes premature wear which puts a strain on our county finances. There is also a safety issue as the size and weight of these trucks means it takes longer for them to stop. One of the regular bypass routes these trucks take goes right past a school. Safety is an issue with these trucks driving through our local streets.

Vehicles that are not traversing the Francis Scott Key Bridge should not have to pay a toll and continuing to charge the toll only brings these heavy trucks onto our residential streets. These are streets that are not designed for large trucks. By eliminating the tolling for these trucks that do not cross the bridge, we are saving companies and truck drivers from unnecessary expenses, keeping our residential roads from unnecessary wear and protecting our children, schools, and citizens from unnecessary safety hazards. This bill will provide a more direct route, protect the community, and provide businesses the economic freedom they need during this pandemic. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on SB 422.

Sincerely,
Senator Johnny Ray Salling