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BILL NO.: House Bill 1187

TITLE: Transportation – Highway User Revenue – Distribution

SPONSOR: Delegate Anderton

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPORRT**

DATE: March 29, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1187 – Highway User Revenue – Distribution. This legislation increases the share of funds collected from highway user revenues that must be appropriated to local governments.

For 40 years, local governments received 30 percent of transportation revenues to fund road maintenance projects. During the 2008 recession, over concerns of drastic declines in revenues and sharp increases in State expenditures, the allocation of Highway User Revenues to local governments dropped by nearly 90 percent. More than a decade later, this funding has not been restored. It is estimated that Baltimore County has missed out on over half a billion dollars in cumulative funding since this alteration. To keep up with repairs and reconstruction of aging local infrastructure and locally maintained roads, local governments need this funding restored.

HB 1187, as amended, extends the timeline before which local shares of highway user revenues fall to 1.5%. The County feels this legislation would be strengthened if local shares returned to 15.3%, as originally written. Returning this funding closer to pre-recession levels would be instrumental in supporting the critical infrastructure projects Baltimore County residents deserve.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1187. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.