THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 1187 Delegates Anderton, et. All Environment & Transportation Committee	Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

HB 1187 – Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution - For the purpose of altering the amounts of certain capital grants calculated based on highway user revenues that are required to be appropriated to Baltimore City, counties, and municipalities in certain fiscal years; and generally relating to revenue for and distributions of highway user revenues.

In 2019, Chapters 330 and 331 altered the manner in which the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account (GMVRA) revenues are shared with local governments, beginning in fiscal 2020. Instead of directly sharing the revenue with local governments, the Acts require 100% of the funds in GMVRA to be retained by the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and distributed to local governments through capital transportation grants. This change allows the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to issue bonds backed by the GMVRA revenues that are ultimately issued to local governments; MDOT was unable to do so prior to the enactment of Chapters 330 and 331.

This reduction of highway user revenue was over 90%. The former share of $555 million was drastically cut back, and while counties stepped forward during the 2018 legislative session as part of a five-year funding boost, their cumulative share still trails far behind what they used to receive. Over five years ago there was an agreement with the General Assembly to restore this for a five-year period and this will continue that period beginning in 2025.

Restoring this funding is imperative to the road improvement projects, bicycle paths and trails, and the expansion of bus services and renovations at rail stops. If passed, this legislation would help these projects get the funding they rightfully deserve.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS House Bill 1187 and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ Consulting
On behalf of Prince George's County Council