



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 1187 – Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution
SUPPORT

The Rockville Mayor and Council thank Chairman Barve and the members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to comment on HB 1187. We are thankful to Delegate Anderton for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council, in partnership with the Maryland Municipal League, strongly support this legislation. As you consider the merits of this legislation, we urge the Committee to provide HB 1187 with a favorable report and forward it to the House floor for a vote.

HB 1187 is the solution that would bring permanent restoration of municipal highway user revenues (HUR) by:

- Removing the funding sunset currently set up to go into effect after FY 2024 when municipal HUR would revert to Great Recession level lows; and
- Increasing municipal HUR beginning in FY2025 to the approximate levels that existed prior to the massive State diversion in 2009 (FY 2010).

The State is in a unique position in 2022, as there is a significant budget surplus and there is federal infrastructure funding that is coming to Maryland. The drastic FY 2010 HUR cut was intended to be a one-time reduction and restored the following year. More than twelve years later, we are still waiting for the restoration.

We are very grateful to the General Assembly for approving in 2018 the approximately 85% restoration of municipal HUR in FY 2020-FY 2024. The increased funding 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. There are 102 bridges in the City of Rockville – vehicle and pedestrian – and we maintain 367 lane miles and roads.

With the sunset looming after FY 2024, engaging in long term transportation plans will be difficult. Municipalities must have surety in planning for transportation infrastructure that is integral to public safety and healthy local economies. As we move forward with the implementation of the Mayor and Council's Vision Zero plan, with the goal to end traffic crash deaths and serious injuries by 2030, HUR funding is becoming increasingly significant in our efforts to provide traffic safety solutions that protect the lives of our residents.

Full HUR restoration will make municipalities whole after many years of underfunding. The time for the General Assembly to act on this longstanding priority is now. HB 1187 is the solution that achieves this goal. We ask for your support for this legislation.