



March 7, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1125 – UNFAVORABLE – Transit - Grant Funding for Local Service – Alterations

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (MTBMA) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 1125 would establish a Locally Operated Transit System Grant Program within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), to be funded through a mandated appropriation in the State budget beginning in FY 2025 and increased annually by the inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index CPI-U. Similarly, the amount of each grant for bus service to each county must also exceed the prior year’s grant by the same inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index CPI-U.

MTBMA opposes House Bill 1125 because it would mandate that an increasing amount of funding be provided specifically to locally operated transit services at the expense of other transportation solutions. Although we understand the value of local transit and its importance to traditionally underserved and underprivileged communities, we believe that transportation-related funding decisions should remain the purview of the Governor and the MDOT Secretary, following consultation with the localities as part of the long-established Consolidated Transportation Program development process.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 1125.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association