

CHAIRMAN:
Jeff Graf
VICE CHAIRMAN
David Slaughter

MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



TREASURER:
Paul Bramble
SECRETARY:
Curtis Hall
PRESIDENT:
G. Marshall Klinefelter

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 Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also 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.

MAA 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.

Sincerely,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association