



February 27th, 2024

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

RE: HB 950 – UNFAVORABLE – Maryland Transit Administration – Locally Operated Transit Systems – Mandatory Funding

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the 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 950 would require the Governor including \$80 Million annually into the State Budget from the Transportation Trust Fund into the Locally Operated Transit System Grant Program. MTBMA strongly opposes this bill because the proposed allocation diverts a substantial amount of funding away from traditional transportation construction projects, jeopardizing jobs and economic stability within our industry. The transportation sector is a significant contributor to Maryland’s economy and a shift in funding priorities does not move Maryland forward. At a time when Maryland’s transportation budget has been severely cut, and transit ridership numbers are still low, we simply cannot support the redirection of such a significant amount of funding to transit.

We recognize the significance of supporting sustainable and efficient public transportation systems. However, we propose a more balanced and collaborative approach that considers the interests of the transportation construction industry while addressing the community's transit needs.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 950.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association