

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

SB 703 – Board of Public Works – Transparency Dashboard

DATE: February 14, 2024

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

POSITION: Favorable

FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 703 – Board of Public Works – Transparency Dashboard a favorable report.

This bill will require the Comptroller to develop and maintain a procurement dashboard on the Comptroller's website. The bill also includes an appropriation in the annual budget bill for one full-time position to develop and maintain the dashboard.

Transparency of information and access to public processes are key components of accountability and democracy. The Board of Public Works and the Comptroller play crucial roles in government spending so their processes and actions should be transparent and accessible to the public. This is particularly important regarding the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) goals.

This will also assist county and local governments in tracking projects that are being considered by the Board of Public Works. SB 703 has the potential to streamline processes for both local governments and members of the general public, while also making government spending more transparent.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 703. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive

Frederick County, MD