

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: HB 1309 - Transportation - State Highways - Project Approval**

Dear Chairman Korman,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 1309- Transportation- State Highways- Project Approval**. MBIA submits comments in the position of **FWA**.

House Bill 1309 would require the State Highway Administration to provide comments on an application for a development project within 30 days after the complete project application is received.

This bill initially was a local Montgomery County bill but has since been re drafted as statewide proposal. Currently, SHA already has a mandatory review time of 45 days which they often exceed so it's a bit confusing how this would be considered "mandatory." However, this bill reduces the timeframe SHA has from 45 days to 30 days which aligns with local mandatory review times, namely Montgomery County's where this recommendation stemmed from a development review committee that the sponsor took over.

The industry does have concerns due to the fact that the bill seems to lack teeth in terms it does not say what happens what happens when SHA fails to provide comment. Also, the revision to Subsection (a) says that this would apply when SHA approval is needed, while the new Subsection (D) states that SHA shall provide comments, rather than its approval.

We would recommend the changes below:

***"THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE **RECOMMENDATIONS** ON AN APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION RECEIVES THE COMPLETE PROJECT APPLICATION. IF THE ADMINISTRATION FAILS TO RENDER SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS THE FOREGOING 30 DAY PERIOD, THEN THE PROPER COUNTY APPROVAL AGENCY AND DEVELOPMENT APPLICANT MAY DEEM THE ADMINSTRATIONS APPROVAL GRATNED TO AS TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPLICATION SUBMITTED."***

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully urges the Committee to adopt the proposed amendments and give this measure a **favorable with amendment** report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee