



Senate Bill 703

Board of Public Works - Transparency Dashboard

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: February 14, 2024

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 703. This bill would create an online dashboard maintained by the Office of the Comptroller to increase transparency and accessibility of Board of Public Works processes and funded projects. In doing so, the public and local governments that do business with the State will have access to more comprehensive information and resources in real time as the State considers capital projects.

The online dashboard created by SB 703 would include information on Board of Public Works meetings, like agendas, meeting materials, and contract spending amounts for each project under consideration. The dashboard would also include information on various State vendor programs and State procurement preference programs like small and minority-owned preference programs, and it would allow for the integration of vendor payments. Essentially, it would serve as an informational and operational hub for public and local government entities that have projects before the State, and that wish to do business with the State.

Counties commend this initiative and strongly welcome its implications for county governments – who themselves are frequent participants in the Board’s considerations. Not only would SB 703 increase transparency and accessibility but it would also support counties in tracking their capital projects from the time of consideration before the Board of Public Works through various stages of implementation and completion. This is especially helpful for large, complex projects, such as those involving transportation infrastructure. Additionally, smaller counties with less capacity and fewer staff will be particularly aided by the dashboard created under SB 703.

For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 703 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.