



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 1309 Transportation - State Highways – Project Approval

Position: Support

Date: March 7, 2024

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Marc Korman and Vice Chair Regina T. Boyce,

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) initially voted to support this bill with amendments. The proposed amendments have been made and the current bill reflects the Board’s recommendations. The Commission respectfully requests the Environment and Transportation Committee to consider this information and include it in the record.

What this Bill Does. This bill seeks to require the State Highway Administration (SHA) to provide comments on an application for a development project within 30 days after the project application is received.

Improvement of Wait Time. In Summer 2023, Delegate Lesley Lopez led a Montgomery County Development Review Process Workgroup to collaborate and find possible recommendations for further improvements to the Development Review Process. One of the Workgroup recommendations was to codify language in the State Law limiting SHA review time to 30 days. This change would align with SHA review time in the Montgomery County Department of Transportation review and ensure the applicant has all transportation comments at the same time, so they address them efficiently while staying on schedule. We believe this same change will make review at the state level more efficient.

For these reasons, the Commission requests a favorable vote in support of HB 1309.