

Wes Moore Governor Aruna Miller Lieutenant Governor Paul J. Wiedefeld Secretary

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee 251 House Office Building Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 924 – Transportation – Regional Transportation Authorities

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of information on House Bill 924 for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 924 establishes three regional transportation authorities (Baltimore Region, Capital Region, and Southern Maryland Region) that would be responsible for developing and implementing regional congestion relief plans. The authorities would also have various duties and responsibilities related to oversight of regional transportation issues including long-range planning and project prioritization.

The Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs (TRAIN Commission) was established by Chapter 455, Acts of 2023, to review, evaluate, and make recommendations on the prioritization and funding of transportation projects. One of the specific items the TRAIN Commission was charged with was reviewing options for regional transportation authorities – MDOT anticipates that this will be a topic that is addressed when the TRAIN Commission resumes its work following the legislative session.

The MDOT recently met with the sponsor of House Bill 924 and appreciated the opportunity to discuss our shared interest in facilitating a conversation about the future of regional transportation authorities in Maryland. MDOT is committed to remaining engaged in discussions both at the TRAIN Commission and with advocates and stakeholders.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 924.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm Director of Government Affairs Maryland Department of Transportation 410-865-1090