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By: ~~Senator Dyson~~ **Senators Dyson and Middleton**  
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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing ~~a commission to study certain issues related to~~  
4 ~~transportation in certain areas of the State~~ the Commission to Study Southern  
5 Maryland Transportation Needs; providing for the membership and staffing of  
6 the ~~commission~~ Commission; requiring the Commission to coordinate with the  
7 Tri-County Council's Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee; requiring  
8 the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland to provide technical and staff  
9 support for the Commission; requiring the ~~commission~~ Commission to study  
10 certain transportation issues and report to the Governor and the General  
11 Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the commission to and make  
12 recommendations with regard to certain aspects of transportation in certain  
13 areas of the State; prohibiting members of the ~~commission~~ Commission from  
14 receiving certain compensation but authorizing the reimbursement of certain  
15 expenses; requiring the Commission to report its findings and recommendations  
16 to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing  
17 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to ~~a commission to study~~  
18 ~~transportation in certain areas of the State~~ the Commission to Study Southern  
19 Maryland Transportation Needs.

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
21 MARYLAND, That:

22 (a) There is a Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Southern Maryland  
23 Transportation Needs.

24 (b) The Commission consists of the following ~~15~~ 18 members:

25 (1) the President of the Senate of Maryland, or the President's designee;

- 1           (2)     the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or the Speaker's designee;
- 2           (3)     the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation, or the  
3 Secretary's designee;
- 4           (4)     the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, or the  
5 Secretary's designee;
- 6           (5)     the representative to the U.S. Congress from the 5th district of  
7 Maryland, or the representative's designee;
- 8           (6)     one county commissioner from St. Mary's County selected by the St.  
9 Mary's County Commissioners;
- 10          (7)     one county commissioner from Charles County selected by the  
11 Charles County Commissioners; ~~and~~
- 12          (8)     one county commissioner from Calvert County selected by the  
13 Calvert County Commissioners;
- 14          (9)     one member of the Prince George's County Council selected by the  
15 Prince George's County Council;
- 16          (10)    one member of the Anne Arundel County Council selected by the  
17 Anne Arundel County Council; and
- 18          ~~(8)~~    (11)    the two senators and six delegates representing State  
19 legislative districts 28 and 29.
- 20          (c)     The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman of the  
21 Commission at its first meeting.
- 22          (d)     The Commission shall coordinate with the Tri-County Council's Regional  
23 Infrastructure Advisory Committee.
- 24          ~~(d)~~    (e)     (1)     The State agencies represented on the Commission shall  
25 provide staff for the Commission.
- 26          (2)     The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland shall provide  
27 technical and staff support for the Commission.
- 28          ~~(e)~~    (f)     A member of the Commission:
- 29               (1)     may not receive compensation; but
- 30               (2)     is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
31 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 32          ~~(f)~~    (g)     The Commission shall:

1 (1) review the study prepared by the Maryland Department of  
 2 Transportation regarding mass transit in Southern Maryland under Chapter 594,  
 3 Acts of 1998, the Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Strategy, the MD  
 4 5/U.S. 301 Transit Service Staging Plan, and any other relevant mass transit studies  
 5 and plans;

6 (2) study the Southern Maryland ~~Commuter Rail plan~~ rail transit  
 7 alternatives, including a light rail transit system in the Maryland Route 5 corridor  
 8 from White Plains to Branch Avenue;

9 (3) study the current and future impact of traffic congestion in Southern  
 10 Maryland, including traffic levels on roads including U.S. Route 301 and Maryland  
 11 ~~routes 2/4, Routes 2/4, 4, 5, 210, 228, 235, and 260;~~

12 (4) make recommendations on potential strategies, including roadway  
 13 improvements; and mass transit, and commuter rail options, including light rail  
 14 transit to reduce traffic congestion on the roads specified in item (3) of this subsection  
 15 and throughout the Southern Maryland region;

16 (5) study and make recommendations regarding the amount of funding  
 17 necessary to implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland;

18 (6) assess the barriers to implementing roadway improvements; and  
 19 mass transit, and commuter including light rail service, in Southern Maryland and  
 20 make recommendations to address those barriers; and

21 (7) make recommendations for potential funding mechanisms to  
 22 implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland.

23 ~~(g)~~ (h) The Commission may:

24 (1) conduct site visits to view ~~commuter~~ rail transportation systems in  
 25 ~~western and central~~ Maryland;

26 (2) request information from representatives of CSX Corporation  
 27 relating to existing ~~heavy~~ rail lines in Southern Maryland;

28 (3) include in its study those communities in Prince George's County  
 29 that lie directly adjacent to St. Mary's and Charles counties and which might be  
 30 impacted by the Commission's recommendations; and

31 (4) hold public hearings to receive comments from interested parties.

32 ~~(h)~~ (i) The Commission shall report its ~~final~~ findings and recommendations  
 33 to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the  
 34 General Assembly on or before ~~November 1, 2004~~ November 1, 2005.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 36 July 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June

1 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
2 abrogated and of no further force and effect.