

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1278 (Delegate Frush, *et al.*)
 Appropriations

University of Maryland, College Park - Campus Traffic Study

This bill requires the President and the Administration of the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) to conduct a comprehensive study of vehicular traffic on the UMCP campus and make recommendations that will enable UMCP to eliminate or reduce vehicular traffic on campus. During deliberations, public hearings must be held and ample opportunity for public input must be provided. A final report must be submitted by January 15, 2006. The Maryland Department of Transportation and Prince George’s County may not spend any funds or grant any approvals for right-of-way acquisition for, or the design or construction of, the proposed Campus Connector until the final report is submitted.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005 and terminates June 30, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Higher education expenditures could increase by an estimated \$300,000 in FY 2006 to fund a comprehensive study of vehicular traffic on the UMCP campus. Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures could decrease by up to \$421,000 in FY 2006 if a proposed appropriation for planning of the Campus Connector cannot be expended during the year. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	(-)	0	0	0	0
Higher Ed Exp.	300,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$300,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Any funding Prince George's County plans to expend in FY 2006 for planning of the Campus Connector could be reduced if planning is delayed.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Language in the 2004 *Joint Chairmen's Report* (JCR) required the State Highway Administration (SHA) to submit a report detailing the actions it has taken to address concerns about the Campus Connector. The report was due July 30, 2004. There are currently no restrictions on funding for the proposed project.

Background: To fulfill the JCR requirement, SHA hired RESOLVE, Inc. to prepare a report on stakeholder concerns about the Campus Connector. An interim report was submitted by SHA on July 30, 2004, and the final report, prepared by RESOLVE, was submitted December 23, 2004. RESOLVE concluded that "stakeholders are polarized on the need, desirability, and preferred alignment of a connector road." The report recommends exploring all of the alternatives for relieving traffic congestion in a way "that balances College Park's regional and local commitments."

State Expenditures: Higher education expenditures would increase by an estimated \$300,000 in fiscal 2006. UMCP is currently spending \$60,000 on a limited shuttle bus study and advises that a more in-depth study of vehicular traffic on the campus, including a traffic analysis, an assessment of transportation alternatives, and public outreach, would require at least \$300,000.

The proposed fiscal 2006 Consolidated Transportation Program includes \$421,000 in TTF expenditures for planning of the Campus Connector. This funding could not be expended until after the study required by the bill is complete. The study is due January 15, 2006, more than six months into fiscal 2006. This could reduce the expenditures that have been included in the proposed State budget. The amount of the cost savings, if any, cannot be reliably estimated.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 21, 2005

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