

CHAPTER 28

(House Bill 507)

AN ACT concerning

Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs to reconvene for certain purposes; altering the date by which the Commission is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly; altering the date for the termination of certain provisions of law; and generally relating to the Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 14 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006
Section 1 and 2

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Chapter 14 of the Acts of 2006

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

(a) There is a Commission to Study Southern Maryland Transportation Needs.

(b) The Commission consists of the following 21 members:

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

(2) the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or the Speaker's designee;

(3) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;

(5) the representative to the U.S. Congress from the 5th district of Maryland, or the representative's designee;

(6) one county commissioner from St. Mary's County selected by the St. Mary's County Commissioners;

(7) one county commissioner from Charles County selected by the Charles County Commissioners;

(8) one county commissioner from Calvert County selected by the Calvert County Commissioners;

(9) one member of the Prince George's County Council selected by the Prince George's County Council;

(10) one member of the Anne Arundel County Council selected by the Anne Arundel County Council;

(11) the three senators and seven delegates representing State legislative districts 28 and 29 and sub-district 27B; and

(12) one representative of the private sector who specializes in bus rapid transit.

(c) The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman of the Commission at its first meeting.

(d) The Commission shall coordinate with the Tri-County Council's Regional Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

(e) (1) The State agencies represented on the Commission shall provide staff for the Commission.

(2) The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland shall provide technical and staff support for the Commission.

(f) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(g) The Commission shall:

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

(2) study the Southern Maryland rail transit alternatives, including a light rail transit system in the Maryland Route 5 corridor from White Plains to Branch Avenue;

(3) study the current and future impact of traffic congestion in Southern Maryland, including traffic levels on roads including U.S. Route 301 and Maryland Routes 2/4, 4, 5, 210, 228, 231, 235, and 260;

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

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

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

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

(h) The Commission may:

(1) conduct site visits to view rail transportation systems in Maryland;

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

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

(4) include in its study those communities in Anne Arundel County that lie directly adjacent to Calvert County and which might be impacted by the Commission's recommendations; [and]

(5) hold public hearings to receive comments from interested parties;

AND

(6) ELECT TO RECONVENE TO STUDY AND MAKE ALTERATIONS TO DRAFTS OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO STUDY ITS FINDINGS.

(i) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before [November 1, 2006] **JUNE 30, 2008**.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of [2] **4** years and, at the end of June 30, [2007] **2009**, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.