

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 563 (Delegates George and V. Clagett)
Environmental Matters

Transportation - Annapolis Light Rail - Feasibility Study

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of providing specified light rail transit facilities in Annapolis. MDOT has to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2009. MDOT must use existing resources to implement the study.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2008 and terminates December 31, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Because MDOT is required to use existing resources to implement the bill, Transportation Trust Fund expenditures estimated at \$270,000 in FY 2009 and \$132,600 in FY 2010 would need to be diverted from other projects to hire a consultant to conduct the required study. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The Maryland Transit Administration may provide transit service by operating the transit facilities it controls itself or contracting or leasing operation of the transit facilities. MTA has authority to plan, develop, construct, acquire, finance, and operate transit facilities. In addition, MTA has jurisdiction over services performed by transit facilities owned or controlled by MTA, including bus service.

The long-term transportation planning process is a collaborative one designed to consider the input of the public, local jurisdictions, metropolitan planning organizations, and elected officials. State law requires the Secretary of Transportation to present and discuss the draft *Consolidated Transportation Program* to elected officials from each county and Baltimore City. The CTP, which is issued annually to the General Assembly, local elected officials, and interested citizens, provides a description of projects proposed by MDOT for development and evaluation or construction over the next six-year period.

MTA's capital program provides funds to support the design, construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for the bus, rail, and statewide programs. The program also provides State and federal grants to local jurisdictions and nonprofit organizations to support the purchase of transit vehicles and the construction of transit facilities. The 2008-2013 CTP includes approximately \$359 million for MTA's capital program for fiscal 2009 and just over \$2.3 billion from fiscal 2008-2013.

In October 2007, the Annapolis City Council adopted a resolution requesting the General Assembly's support for the transportation planning studies addressed by the bill. This legislation is a direct result of those resolutions.

State Expenditures: The bill requires MDOT to use existing resources to implement the bill. Accordingly, MDOT would be required to divert funding from other projects in order to complete the required study. Due to the short timeframe set by the bill, MDOT advises that a consultant would need to be hired to complete the study. MDOT advises that the estimated cost of the study would be approximately \$270,000 in fiscal 2009 and \$132,600 in fiscal 2010, is based on MDOT's experience conducting studies of this magnitude and complexity. Legislative Services notes that costs could vary depending on the issues that arise during the study.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 22, 2008
ncs/lgc

Analysis by: Michael P. Lee

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510