

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 875 (Senator M. Washington)
 Finance

Task Force to Study the Reconstitution of the Maryland Transportation Commission

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study the Reconstitution of the Maryland Transportation Commission (MTC). The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) must provide staff for the task force. By December 31, 2024, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to MDOT, the Governor, and the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates June 30, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by \$100,000 annually in FY 2024 and 2025. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	100,000	100,000	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: Local governments can cooperate with the task force as necessary and appropriate using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must (1) review the laws governing MTC and examine the historic evolution of the duties and activities of MTC and (2) make recommendations on:

- whether to revise the membership of MTC;
- whether MTC is performing its statutory duties;
- how MTC could better fulfill its role in ensuring that MDOT is complying with mandates;
- whether MTC should have the authority to approve modal plans for each business unit; and
- the role of the commission in the development and approval process for the *Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP)*, including whether MTC should (1) hold public hearings; (2) have approval authority over the draft and final CTP; and (3) participate in the annual fall tour process.

Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

Current Law:

Maryland Transportation Commission

Established in 1971, MTC is comprised of 17 members: 10 members appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary of Transportation and the 7 regional members of the State Roads Commission (SRC) who serve as *ex officio* members. MTC meets monthly; a summary of its meetings and activities can be found on [MDOT's website](#).

MTC must study the entire transportation system of the State and regularly discuss with the Secretary any matter relating to the State's transportation system. Each of the seven regional members of SRC must (1) conduct a continuing survey of the secondary highways in that member's region and (2) report on the highway needs and problems of that region to MTC. MTC may request of the Secretary any information relating to MDOT that is needed for MTC's studies, surveys, and deliberations. MTC must advise and make recommendations to the Secretary and the heads of the units in MDOT on all matters that concern transportation policy formation and program execution.

Although not explicitly required by statute, MTC also considers requests for the dedication of transportation facilities in memory or honor of individuals or groups of significance to the state of Maryland. Specifically, MTC may consider and may recommend approval of those requests for dedication that are made for (1) a distinguished individual who is deceased or retired from public or community service and who is widely recognized and renowned for service that has been characterized by exceptional achievement; (2) groups or associations with special relevance for Maryland; or (3) aspects of life or areas which are unique to Maryland.

State Roads Commission

SRC is chaired by the State Highway Administrator and includes seven other members that represent different geographic regions of the State. SRC has oversight authority over real estate transactions undertaken by the State Highway Administration (SHA). For example, the Maryland Constitution requires SRC to determine when property is needed by SHA for highway purposes and to estimate the fair value of said property when it is acquired.

State Expenditures: In the execution of its duties, MDOT often engages expert consultants to handle research, evaluations, planning studies, and staffing duties, and MDOT anticipates engaging one of its consultants to handle the increase in workload resulting from the bill. Therefore, TTF expenditures increase by \$100,000 in fiscal 2024 and by \$100,000 in fiscal 2025 for MDOT to hire a consultant to staff the task force, conduct any necessary research, and complete the required report.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 1072 (Delegate Bridges) - Appropriations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2023
km/lgc

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