



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

The Hon. Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget & Tax Commission
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: Prince George's County Council's Position on General Assembly Legislation
S.B. 105 - Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project – Requirements and Funding**

Dear Senator Guzzone:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2020 General Assembly Session. The Council met on January 7, 2020. The enclosed report reflects our position on General Assembly bills as they are currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to our citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3094.

Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Hon. Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Angela D. Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Executive
Hon. Reuben B. Collins, II, President, Charles County Commissioners
Hon. Joanne C. Benson, Chair, Prince George's County Senate Delegation
Hon. Michael A. Jackson, Chair, Prince George's County House Delegation
Hon. Arthur Ellis, Senator – 28th District

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on January 7, 2020 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Todd M. Turner, Chair
Council Member, Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Vice Chair
Council Member, Monique Anderson-Walker
Council Member, Derrick L. Davis
Council Member, Thomas E. Dernoga
Council Member, Mel Franklin
Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros
Council Member, Sydney J. Harrison
Council Member, Jolene Ivey
Council Member, Rodney C. Streeter
Council Member, Deni L. Taveras

The Council voted for the following position on the respective bill:

SB 105 Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project – Requirements and Funding -
SUPPORT



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 105 Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project - Requirements and Funding
(Sen. Ellis)

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

SB 105 - Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project - Requirements and Funding – requires the State Department of Transportation to promptly undertake all necessary steps to complete the design, engineering, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This bill also requires the Governor to include an annual appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund in the State budget.

The Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Project is a proposed light rail from the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station in Prince George's County to Waldorf and White Plains in Charles County. A SMRT Study Final Report by the Maryland Transit Administration in 2017, concluded that a rapid transit rail system would support the County's proposed residential and commercial development through 2040, reduce commute times, and allow County residents to take advantage of opportunities in surrounding jurisdictions. As outlined in the County's annual joint transportation priority letter, with the growth of the County, the Council will continue to pursue funding for rapid transit alternatives along multi-jurisdictional corridors.

This bill would authorize the \$27 million required for the initial phase of the project; with \$12 million allocated for fiscal year 2022 and \$15 million allocated for 2023. Despite initial construction expenses, the annual operating costs for a Rapid Transit Rail System is approximately \$10 million less than the annual operating costs of a traditional bus system. A Rapid Transit Rail System is also more accommodating to future expansion initiatives.

For these reasons, **Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS SB 105** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this position.

Prepared by: LA Perez Consulting
On behalf of Prince George's County Council
