

STATEMENT ON SR 13 “The Chesapeake Bay Bridge Advisory Group and Traffic Study” Bill by Richard B. Ladd, 121 Bluebell Ct, Chester, MD 21619: Feb 5, 2020

I strongly support SR 13 and urge its adoption for a number of reasons.

First, the Bill officially establishes an oversight/advisory board for a critical community process: accessing 2 “islands” – Kent Island and the Broadneck Peninsula – over 4 bridges. One is an MDTA toll facility – the others are State Highway Administration (SHA) bridges.

The Bill establishes a more broadly based citizen membership for the Advisory Group with the explicit opportunity to focus on the regional, “inter-county” and economy supporting role of the highway network enabled by the Bay Bridge.

Second, the Bill fully recognizes and builds upon a new – soon to be installed -- high speed, automated, electronic toll collection system coupled with a new automated, reversible lane capability. This capability will more flexibly align 3 full bridge lanes with the dominate flow. All of this is subject to additional improvements – best practices – potentially identifiable by the Maryland Transportation Institute.

Third, the Bill recognizes, elevates and incorporates into the collaborative process the SHA and it’s significant role of marshalling traffic to and from the Bay Bridge through Anne Arundel County and Queen Anne’s County while operating 3 additional bridges, two of which operate quite well with 3 “east-west” lanes. SHA must participate and enable the dynamic alignment – the timing and conditional use of the reversible lane -- of the third primary flow lane to minimizing backups to sustain, uninterrupted, higher bridge crossing volumes and speeds.

Strategically, this can and should enable local management of public safety issues and optimization of the State’s sunk investments over the next decade as we work our way through the multi-year, NEPA process to recapitalize the aging Bay Crossing infrastructure and the potential expansion of mass transit services.

This is a regional – neither an eastern shore nor a western shore -- initiative whose time has come AND THIS IS ALL “GOODNESS” for the State of Maryland!