



February 12, 2020

Senate Bill 456

Transportation - Third Chesapeake Bay Crossing - Study

Senate Finance Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 456 - Transportation - Third Chesapeake Bay Crossing - Study.

This Bill would require the Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland to conduct a study on adding a third Chesapeake Bay crossing and potential impacts on traffic, health, and the environment, as well as make recommendations for short and long-term solutions to alleviate traffic congestion. A third bridge located in Anne Arundel County would bring significantly more traffic through the County and place an increased burden on its transportation infrastructure. Many County roads are already at, or beyond, capacity. It is critical that in planning for an additional bridge across the Chesapeake Bay that we make the highest and best use of our roadways, as well as examine the feasibility of transportation alternatives like those proposed in this Bill.

It is also important to take into account the health and environmental impacts of creating a third span. Not only will construction impact the health of the Bay in the area around the bridge, but increased traffic leads to increased air pollution, which impacts both the natural environment and the health of those in surrounding communities. It is vital that this be taken into consideration and is included as part of the study's mandate.

Finally, it is important to take into account those communities located closest to a new bridge span that would feel the greatest impact. While a third bridge span benefits all Marylanders, it would impact those living close to it every day, which is why including the opportunity for the public to comment being included in the study is so important.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 456.