



March 8, 2022

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1022 – UNFAVORABLE – State Highway Administration – Route 5 Reconstruction Project at Great Mills

Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (MTBMA) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland's construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 1022 would require the State Highway Administration to undertake all steps necessary to complete the Route 5 reconstruction project in Great Mills in St. Mary's County and require the Governor to appropriate the necessary funds for construction of the project.

MTBMA does not take a position on whether or not this project needs to be done on the basis of safety and traffic concerns. However, it is and has always been our position that the General Assembly not mandate specific projects that the Administration should and should not do. These decisions need to be left up to the experts within the Department of Transportation. We cannot allow the Legislature to cherry pick which projects should be completed within Maryland based on their priorities within their own districts. The Department has a detailed protocol for making these determinations and we need to leave it up to them.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue, and we urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 1022.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", is written over a large, stylized blue scribble that extends across the page.

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association