



March 8, 2022

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

RE: HB 1324 – Transportation – Maryland Rail Authority – Establishment (Maryland Rail Investment Act of 2022) – Letter of Inquiry

Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the 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 submit this testimony without a position, but rather as an inquiry into this piece of legislation. House Bill 1324 would establish the Maryland Rail Authority, detailing its membership and duties and setting an operating budget of \$2.8 million.

Before MTBMA is able to take a position, we seek additional information and clarity. We’d like to know how this rail authority would be funded. The bill does not detail anything regarding where its operating budget will come from and there is no fiscal note available yet. MTBMA has concerns that the funds needed to operate the Maryland Rail Authority will be redirected from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and would result in less money available to fund critical repairs to the roads and bridges that form the backbone of Maryland’s transportation infrastructure. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with traditional underfunding of the State’s road maintenance needs, leads MTBMA to request that, should the body wish to implement this proposed program, another funding source apart from the TTF should be utilized.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this legislation and we look forward to learning more so we can determine how it may impact our members and the residents of Maryland.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association