

**SB0729-BT-FAV.pdf**

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**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
88 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**SB 729**

March 9, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 729 - Baltimore City – Use of Highway User Revenues for Traffic Functions and Enforcement – Modification

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 729.

SB 729 would amend the Highway User Revenue (HUR) section of the Transportation article, which specifically lays out how HUR funds are to be distributed by a county. In §8-408(a)(2) it is specifically provided as one of the allowable uses of the funds for Baltimore City are “costs incurred by its police department for carrying out traffic functions and enforcing the traffic laws.”

Every year the Baltimore Police Department has funds placed in its budget by the State to administer Baltimore City’s crossing guards’ program. However, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (BCDOT) administers the Crossing Guard program. Every year, the Bureau of the Budget and Management Research (BBMR), which manages the finances for the City, must transfer these funds to BCDOT.

By deleting the reference to the Baltimore Police Department, BBMR would no longer have to go through the extra step of moving the funds in the budget and BCDOT would become the direct recipient of the budgeted funds. The BCA seeks to remove this additional “pass-through” step, to provide for more accurate accounting and greater budgetary transparency for the Baltimore Police Department and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation.

For these reasons we respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 729.

*Annapolis – phone: 410.269.0207 • fax: 410.269.6785  
Baltimore – phone: 410.396.3497 • fax: 410.396.5136  
<https://mogr.baltimorecity.gov/>*