
March 3, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1032 – State Highway Administration – Highway Cleanup – Records and Reporting

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1032 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 1032 requires the MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) to keep records related to the process, procedures, and expenditures of maintaining highways in the State of Maryland, including: a statewide summary for county and multicounty agreements, a summary of each agreement, and a full report on the MDOT SHA's highway cleanup process. Additionally, House Bill 1032 requires the MDOT SHA to publish on its website a list of highway cleanup schedules, a list of current highway cleanup projects by county, and report to the General Assembly.

Through 28 statewide maintenance shops and 7 engineering districts spanning 23 counties, the MDOT SHA has in place a robust litter and highway cleanup process. These local maintenance shops are responsible for performing highway cleanup and other maintenance activities on their portions of the State's roadway network, within their respective jurisdictions, based on the needs identified. On average, \$7.5 million is funded annually to each district and maintenance shop for litter removal; the amount allocated is determined by roadside miles, lane miles, average annual vehicle miles traveled, and level of service.

The MDOT SHA also utilizes critical partnerships with other agencies and entities to address highway litter concerns. In place are as-needed agreements with local entities for litter and mowing and are in place to focus on concentrated litter pickup efforts in areas with the greatest need. The MDOT SHA also manages the Sponsor-A-Highway and Adopt-A-Highway Programs, which encourages sponsors and adopters to perform litter removal on their roadway segments. If sponsors or adopters are not able to maintain their segments, they can be removed for not complying with the program requirements. The MDOT SHA also partners with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS); however, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, these services significantly decreased in FY 21. In an effort to keep up with litter volumes, the MDOT SHA has diverted more of its staff and equipment resources to perform increased in-house litter pickup, without detracting from essential safety and mobility-related maintenance work.

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Page Two

Further, the MDOT SHA already keeps and maintains records related to our highway cleanup process, budget, and expenditures, as required by House Bill 1032, on a county-by-county basis. Upon request, the MDOT SHA can provide documentation of process, procedures, and expenditures for highway cleanup.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1032.

Sincerely,

Nicole Stafford
State Legislative Manager
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-303-5642

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090