



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

February 24, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 925 – Traffic Control Signal Modernization Fund - Establishment

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 925 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 925 establishes the Traffic Control Modernization Fund (Fund) to finance traffic control signal upgrades across the State. The Fund would be financed by 10 percent of fines and civil penalties collected from certain traffic infractions. House Bill 925 would also require the MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA) to develop and implement a plan to update traffic signals by December 31, 2029.

The MDOT SHA maintains a statewide inventory of approximately 3,000 traffic signals; under House Bill 925, 2,500 of those signals would require upgrades by December 31, 2029. Due to the cost for signal upgrades, the MDOT SHA estimates an additional \$100 million would be needed for those 2,500 signal upgrades. Over 95 percent of traffic signals have already been upgraded to LED and the remaining locations are scheduled for upgrades in the next two years. Additionally, the MDOT SHA has in place a strategic plan for battery backup installations at certain signalized intersections based on risk facts. Hundreds of locations have already been deployed, and the remaining locations will be implemented to coincide with other signal upgrades.

Additionally, while House Bill 925 proposes that traffic signal upgrades be financed through the Traffic Control Modernization Fund, it is unclear what alternative source of funding would be needed should the total of the Fund not be sufficient.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 925.

Sincerely,

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