



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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**HB 925**

February 24, 2022

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

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

**RE:** House Bill 925 - Traffic Control Signal Modernization Fund - Establishment

**POSITION: OPPOSE**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **opposes** House Bill (HB) 925.

HB 925 earmarks 10% of local red light camera revenues to a fund dedicated to improving traffic signal infrastructure across Maryland, with State-owned infrastructure being prioritized first. The fund would be administered by the State Comptroller.

The BCA is concerned that traffic revenue generated in the City will be sent to other jurisdictions rather than be used for improvements within the City. This is because the fund collects the money from all jurisdictions and prioritizes the use of the monies in tiers. The first priority goes to replacing signals on or at the intersection of highways maintained by municipalities, except for Baltimore City. The second priority would be to fund counties and Baltimore City. The last priority goes to state highways.

To the BCA's knowledge, Baltimore City maintains the most signals per jurisdiction – 1300. For comparison, Montgomery County maintains the second most at 780. Baltimore County maintains 250, Prince George's County maintains 215, and Anne Arundel 100. While these numbers are for the total number of signals, not just highway-specific signals, the difference is stark. This bill disproportionately impacts Baltimore City. Baltimore City has significant traffic signal upgrades and replacement needs. It would put us in a position of having to contribute to a fund that prioritizes other municipalities and then requires us to compete among the counties for a portion of the funding.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests an **unfavorable** report on HB 925.