

March 9, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support with Amendments – House Bill 1052 – Transportation – Consolidated Transportation Program – Scoring

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 1052, with the adoption of the sponsor amendments. MDOT would like to note for the Committee that it has engaged in conversations with the bill sponsor about areas of concern in the bill related to the Chapter 30 Scoring Model, as drafted, as well as common goals. MDOT looks forward to continuing its working relationship with the bill sponsor.

House Bill 1052 originally was comprised of two sections. Section 1, as amended by the bill sponsor, removes the prescriptive Chapter 30 Scoring Model requirements. Section 2 establishes a Workgroup on the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act to evaluate the model required under Transportation Article § 2–103.7(b), with recommendations due by September 1, 2025. Additionally, in the process of conducting the evaluations, the Workgroup shall consider that the State transportation goals may include climate change mitigation, environmental justice, and smart growth design principles.

The current Chapter 30 Scoring Model was developed by an implementation group comprised of regional planners, capital programming staff, subject matter experts from transportation business units, and representatives from the Maryland Association of Counties and Maryland Municipal League. It has been five years since this group developed the project-based scoring model consistent with the requirements of Transportation Article § 2–103.7(b). The MDOT agrees that it is time for a reexamination of the Chapter 30 Scoring Model to see if what has changed since then, look at what has been done around the country, particularly in Virginia, and determine the best path forward.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee grant House Bill 1052 a favorable report as amended.

Respectfully submitted,

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