



March 9, 2023

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 1052 – UNFAVORABLE – Transportation – Consolidated Transportation Program - Scoring

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (MTBMA) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland's construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 1052 would expand the State transportation goals and measures that must be used by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for its project-based scoring system when it evaluates major transportation projects for inclusion in the draft and final Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). A new Workgroup on the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act, to be staffed by MDOT, is also established and tasked with reporting its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by September 1, 2025.

MTBMA opposes House Bill 1052 because we believe the proposed changes to the goals and measures used in MDOT's scoring system for major transportation projects seem targeted at reducing the scores of potential road and highway projects and increasing those of transit projects being considered by the Department. For example, several of the revisions highlight controversial topics such as smart growth and environmental justice—lenses that, to many, would render the entire scoring process biased from square one. In addition, the language limiting the weight that any specific goal or measure may have on an individual project's overall score effectively substitutes the judgment of the General Assembly for that of the people who manage these projects every day by restricting the authority of MDOT personnel to assess the merits of any given project as they see fit.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 1052.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association