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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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March 31, 2023

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

RE: Senate Bill 24 – Department of Transportation - Financing and Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs (State and Federal Transportation Funding Act) – Amendment Request

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) respectfully requests an amendment for your consideration to Senate Bill 24 – Department of Transportation - Financing and Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs (State and Federal Transportation Funding Act).

Senate Bill 24 would expand the authority of MDOT to issue additional bonds backed by future federal aid, commonly referred to as Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle, or “GARVEE,” bonds up to a maximum of \$1 billion as of June 30 of any year; however, the proceeds from those additional bonds are then reserved exclusively to pay for the following projects:

- Designing and constructing the Baltimore Red Line;
- Procuring zero-emission buses (in accordance with existing provisions relating to the conversion of the State transit bus fleet to zero-emission buses) and constructing related infrastructure, including bus maintenance facilities;
- Developing and constructing the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Corridor;
- Designing and constructing improvements to the Maryland Route 2 and Route 4 corridor, including the Thomas Johnson Bridge;
- Designing and constructing improvements to the Maryland Route 90 corridor; and
- Designing and constructing improvements to the Interstate 81 corridor.

In addition, amendments adopted by the Senate would establish the Maryland Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs to review the current funding sources for the Transportation Trust Fund, options for sustainable long-term revenue sources for transportation, among others.

THE MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION, INC. 2408 PEPPERMILL DRIVE; SUITE G; GLEN BURNIE, MARYLAND
21061

(410) 761-2160 FAX (410) 761-2160 WEB SITE www.mdasphalt.org

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While MAA is in strong support of establishing the Commission on Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs and the increase in the amount of GARVEE bonds that MDOT may issue, we respectfully ask for your consideration to include two additional projects to the list:

- **The American Legion Memorial Bridge on Interstate 495; and**
- **The Gov. William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge spanning the Chesapeake Bay.**

We believe improvements to these critical transportation corridors are long overdue and will benefit Marylanders across all regions of the State. We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marshall Klinefelter". The ink is a reddish-brown color. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'M' and 'K'.

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association