



February 21, 2023

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

RE: House Bill 341 – LETTER OF INQUIRY – Transportation - Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs and Transportation Improvement Programs - Equity Impacts

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 341 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and any metropolitan planning organizations to include an equity analysis for each transportation project listed in the statewide transportation improvement program or any regional transportation improvement program, respectively, along with an overall analysis of how these programs may impact low-income communities and minority communities.

MTBMA believes the analyses that would be required under House Bill 341 are unnecessarily duplicative because all transportation projects that trigger the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) must, under the subsequent Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, also contain an assessment of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of a proposed action or project. As a result, performing the analyses specifically required by House Bill 341 would expend much-needed Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) revenues looking at issues that have already been studied. With a system preservation funding gap already exceeding \$4 billion, reducing the overall amount of funding in the TTF for transportation projects would only serve to make our already deteriorating roads and crumbling bridges even more dangerous.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our concerns with House Bill 341.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association