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Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Acting Secretary

February 21, 2023

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

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 491 – Transportation – Commission to Study
Establishing a Baltimore Regional Transit Authority***

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 491 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 491 would establish a Commission to complete a comprehensive study and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by October 31, 2024, on the establishment of a Baltimore Regional Transit Authority.

While MDOT and MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) appreciate being named to the Commission, the body is tasked with analyzing a wide variety of subjects in a relatively short period of time. Additionally, the legislation is unclear as to which agency or body will provide staff assistance. For the purposes of this review, MDOT assumes that it would be tasked with providing the necessary staff and resources.

Staffing this Commission and providing the necessary supporting resources will have a substantial fiscal impact on MDOT. The estimated cost to MDOT would be approximately \$1,181,000 in FY 2024 and \$745,000 in FY 2025. These costs are associated with conducting the studies and analysis required in the bill, as well as general administration to support the Commission’s work. Any expenditures resulting from this legislation will come from the Transportation Trust Fund.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 491.

Respectfully submitted,

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