

March 13, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 252 – State Highway Administration - Highway Clean-up – Records and Reporting

Dear Chair Barve:

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) is committed to providing a safe, equitable, and clean highway system for all users across the State. To demonstrate this commitment and address the immediate need, SHA recently kicked off “Operation Clean Sweep Maryland” in which resources were diverted from other efforts to remove the abundance of litter that has accumulated within our right-of-way.

Additional resources and an increased operating budget will be required to accomplish the increased frequency. The SHA budget for mowing and litter will be increased by approximately 30 percent, bringing the total statewide allocation for litter and mowing to \$30 million. The SHA is committed to serving our customers across the state equitably, including our statewide litter and maintenance programs. Detailed budget and expenditure data is readily available and can be provided upon request.

The SHA is also developing a dashboard that will be posted on the SHA website to communicate local litter and mowing schedules with the public. The goal of informing the public on the planned dates and locations for SHA litter and mowing activities is to address public concerns on SHA’s attentiveness, reduce the number of requests for litter and mowing services within our Customer Care Management System, and empower SHA resources to provide proactive service rather than reactionary activities. The SHA is committed to posting the public facing dashboard by October 1, 2023.

The SHA will collaborate with Delegate Charles and others to ensure the dashboard meets the needs of elected officials and the public, alike. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Tim Smith
Administrator

cc: The Honorable Nick Charles, Maryland House of Delegates