



February 20, 2024

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

**RE: HB 764 – UNFAVORABLE – State Lottery Fund – Bus Rapid Transit Fund Distribution – Alteration**

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the 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 764 removes limitations on distributing funds from the State Lottery to the Bus Rapid Transit Fund, reallocating \$27 Million annually for rapid bus transit system grants.

MTBMA opposes this legislation because it is unfair and unjustifiable to prioritize funding for bus rapid transit at the expense of other critical transportation needs. While we acknowledge the importance of investing in public transit, the bill exacerbates existing disparities and neglects the broader transportation network's maintenance and improvement requirements. Our industry is facing significant challenges due to massive cuts to the transportation budget, which have severely impacted our ability to secure contracts and sustain our workforce. If the State deems it appropriate to draw from the State Lottery Fund for bus rapid transit initiatives, then it should also consider similar measures for the Transportation Trust Fund.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 764.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata  
President and CEO  
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association