



January 29, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Tax Committee
101 James Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore-DC Building Trades
on SB 198: Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program -
Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2025)
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you, Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Tax Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 198.

My name is Ray Baker. I am the Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

BDCBT supports SB 198. We appreciate Governor Moore's and the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) effort to make the state's approach to prioritizing surface transportation projects more data driven. We agree, especially when capital budgets are tight, that it is important that every dollar invested in surface transportation delivers maximum value to the residents of Maryland and advances the state's critical goals.

SB 198 also incorporates processes to make project selection more transparent, with greater accountability and public engagement. Community input, including from residents, businesses, nonprofits, as well as the local workforce, ensures meaningful and measurable outcomes.

We also support that MDOT will kick off its new scoring system with a pilot round in 2025, which will create a great opportunity for feedback from stakeholders.

BDCBT urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 198.

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