



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 29, 2025

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Bill: SB 198 - Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program - Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2025)

Position: Favorable with Amendments

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 198 with amendments. The bill alters certain aspects of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) and the prioritization process of its projects. Municipal governments are intrinsically interested in the projects that are selected for inclusion in the CTP and the manner in which that is done.

Currently, there are few municipally managed projects that are included in the CTP as a result of the small land area that municipalities occupy and the high dollar amount threshold for CTP projects. However, municipalities are eligible and encouraged to submit priority letters to the Department on behalf of other projects they deem worthy of consideration. These priority letters have a point value assigned to them in the project scoring model.

There are several aspects of the bill as introduced that are beneficial to municipal governments.

- The proposed state of good repair highway program may lead to the inclusion of more municipal projects targeting existing assets.
- The creation of a category called “small surface transportation projects” is aimed at lower cost projects that again may lead to more funding for municipal projects.
- The proposed project scoring system will weigh the project’s benefits against its cost, possibly allowing more lower-cost but high impact projects to receive funding.

MML’s amendments are conceptual but focus on two main areas.

- Clarifying the process for local input on both projects submitted by a local government but also projects submitted by other entities.
- Improved notification to local governments of upcoming deadlines in the CTP process.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 26 with amendments. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.