



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
SB 881 – Transportation – Regional Transportation Authorities
SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. I'm Christine Krone from Schwartz, Metz, Wise, and Kauffman in representation of the Mayor and Council of Rockville. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 881. We are thankful to Senator Rosapepe for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support SB 881, which would establish regional transportation authorities in the Baltimore, Capital, and Southern Maryland regions of the State. The authorities would conduct general oversight of regional transportation programs, including the priority setting, planning, and implementation of large-scale transportation projects. Each authority would adopt a regional transportation plan that supports mobility, safety, accessibility, and economic development.

SB 881 takes an innovative approach to addressing the ongoing lack of State funding for major transportation projects. Transportation Trust Fund revenues have been steadily declining in recent years due to increased use of fuel efficient, hybrid, and electric vehicles. SB 881 would raise supplemental revenue dedicated for large scale transportation projects by levying regional surcharges on the sales, use of a taxable service, hotel lodging, and the transfer of real property.

We support the revenue sharing arrangement under SB 881, which would allocate thirty percent of the revenues generated in a municipality to the municipality and seventy percent to the State. The same funding distribution would apply to Counties. These additional revenues would provide the State, counties, and municipalities the opportunity to make additional investments in critical transportation infrastructure projects. Increased transportation funding would expedite the forward progress the City is making towards achieving its Vision Zero program goals.

SB 881 is an important step forward as it offers a creative solution to solving the State's transportation funding issues. By taking a regional approach to transportation, generating critically needed revenues, and encouraging multijurisdictional collaboration, this legislation has the potential to dramatically improve the quality of infrastructure in our communities and stimulate economic growth in Maryland. For these reasons we urge the Committee to provide SB 881 with a favorable report.