



**Senate Bill 881 - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities  
Budget & Taxation Committee/ Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Support**

The City of Gaithersburg writes to express our strong support for Senate Bill 881, which seeks to establish Regional Transportation Authorities for the Baltimore Region, Capital Region, and Southern Maryland Region. This legislation represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to address transportation challenges, accelerate congestion relief projects, and enhance the quality of life for Maryland residents. The establishment of Regional Transportation Authorities is a critical tool for implementing effective congestion relief plans. By focusing on the unique needs of each region, these authorities can tailor strategies that improve mobility, reduce travel times, and enhance access to public transportation. Furthermore, the proposed funding formula's partial allocation of revenue to municipalities will provide critical support for transportation projects vital to Maryland's cities and towns.

As we continue to simultaneously lament and admire the extensive investments in transportation infrastructure made across Northern Virginia in recent years, we should really be recognizing the role that the establishment of the Northern Virginia Transportation District has played in funding these projects. The unique taxing and bonding authority granted to transportation districts such as these has allowed the Commonwealth to expand highways, enhance public transportation systems, and make other investments that have supported the explosive growth of their residential and business communities. It is time for Maryland to have analogous authority so that we can, finally, compete meaningfully. By facilitating smoother traffic flow and more efficient public transit options, we can better attract businesses, boost tourism, and create jobs within our communities.

Effective transportation planning and infrastructure development can also significantly contribute to environmental sustainability. By promoting the use of better public transit options and reducing traffic congestion, we can decrease vehicle emissions and improve air quality, aligning with Maryland's commitment to environment stewardship.

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MAYOR  
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Neil Harris  
Lisa Henderson  
Yamil Hernández  
Jim McNulty  
Robert Wu

CITY MANAGER  
Tanisha R. Briley

Overall, Senate Bill 881 is not just a transportation bill; it's a pathway to a more connected, sustainable, and prosperous Maryland. The establishment of Regional Transportation Authorities will empower us to address long-standing transportation challenges in a coordinated and strategic manner. I urge you to support this bill, recognizing its potential to transform our state's transportation landscape for the better.

Therefore, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 881. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Therese Hessler, at [therese@ashlargr.com](mailto:therese@ashlargr.com). We appreciate your support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jud Ashman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

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