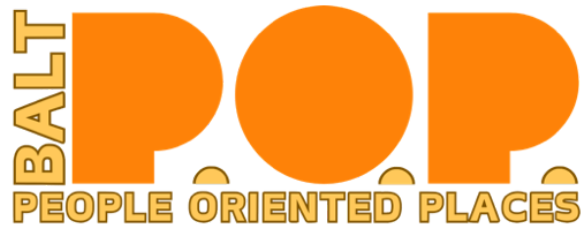


Bill: HB1068

Bill Title: Maryland Transportation Authority - Tolls
- Collection and Use (Maryland Toll Rate Reform
Act of 2025)



Position: **Favorable with Amendments**

Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

As a group which views public transit as being a preferred mode of transportation for maximizing the appeal and productivity of Baltimore and its closest-in suburbs, we support HB1068.

This bill calls for any funds collected in the Transportation Facilities Overage Account to be directed toward two uses:

1. the construction and maintenance of state highways that feed vehicular traffic to a maryland transportation authority transportation facility
2. state highway or transit construction or maintenance projects that relieve traffic congestion at a maryland transportation authority transportation facility by providing alternative transportation options for commuters and cargo.

We would like to see these uses amended such that “construction” is clarified to only include “non-expansion construction” of state highways. Our highway system is already too over-built and burdensomely expensive to maintain as-is. Expanding it any further only serves to more deeply entrench our fiscally-unsustainable automobile-centric transportation and land use development patterns.

Transit expansion should be the only **expansion** “construction” project type available to which account funds may be directed. If this feels overly constrictive, we can see allowing for highway construction targeted for relieving **cargo-specific** congestion, but **commuter-specific** congestion must only be relieved by transit construction. Any attempts to alleviate commuter-specific congestion via highway expansions only ever brings short-term relief, which the effects of induced demand quickly erase.

We hope the committee finds these points helpful and convincing and we urge its members to **vote in favor of HB1068, with our suggested amendments**. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity for us to testify on this legislation.

[BaltPOP - Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places](#)

