



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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HB 1370

March 04, 2025

TO: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 1370 - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities
POSITION: LETTER OF CONCERN

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **has concerns with** House Bill (HB) 1370.

HB 1370 would establish a 0.5% surcharge on sales taxes and a 1% surcharge on hotel use taxes for transactions performed in Baltimore City. Of this, 30% of revenue would be reimbursed to the City for investment in transportation needs. The other 70% would be directed to a regional trust fund for use by a newly established regional transportation authority. While we recognize the need for additional transportation funding and investment in the face of structural gaps in state funds, a regional authority could be duplicative of existing bodies like the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (the region's federal planning organization). Further, the new authority could be duplicative of an agency like the MTA, which currently manages transit projects in the Baltimore region and statewide.

Given that Baltimore City is responsible for the maintenance of all of its local and state roads and has a considerable deferred maintenance backlog, we would like to ensure that funding generated in Baltimore City is directed to Baltimore City projects.

It is for these reasons that the Baltimore City Administration respectfully requests consideration of these concerns on HB 1370.