



January 30, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 288 – FAVORABLE – Maryland Transportation Authority – Tolls, Fees, and Other Charges – Temporary Adjustments

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 288 increases the maximum duration – from 180 days to 300 days – of a Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) emergency status determination, which allows MDTA to adopt temporary adjustments to tolls, fees, mileage rate ranges, pricing periods, toll zones, or other charges without meeting specified public notice and comment requirements.

MTBMA supports this departmental bill because it will give the MDTA additional flexibility that is necessary during emergency situations. No one could have foreseen what happened last year to the Key Bridge. It is during those unprecedented times that agencies such as the MDTA need to be given movement. This flexibility can help ensure continued funding for infrastructure projects, reduce disruptions caused by unforeseen circumstances, and provide more stability for ongoing construction and maintenance efforts. The bill enables quicker financial responses to emergencies, ensuring that critical transportation projects remain funded and operational without delays.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 288.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", is written over a large, light blue circular scribble.

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association