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January 29, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 210 – Maryland Transportation Authority – Tolls, Fees, and Other Charges – Temporary Adjustments***

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 210 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Currently, if the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) determines that an emergency status exists, it can adopt temporary adjustments to tolls, fees, and mileage ranges that can take effect immediately on adoption by the MDTA Board or on the effective date established by the MDTA Board. When the emergency status expires, the temporary adjustments end. By law, an emergency status determination may not exceed 180 days. SB 210 increases the maximum duration of an emergency status determination during which the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) may authorize a temporary adjustments of these fees to 300 days.

The current 180-day limitation on an emergency status determination does not provide sufficient time for MDTA staff to fulfill the requirements of the standard toll setting process in statute. Increasing the maximum duration allowed to 300 days provides the needed time to complete a toll adjustment analysis, develop a toll adjustment proposal, prepare public hearing materials and notifications, conduct public hearings, and allow for adequate public comment period in accordance with the existing statute.

Uncertainties with the timing of emergency federal funds or other financial resources to rebuild or repair damaged structures could create an emergency that requires tolls, fees, or mileage rate ranges to be adjusted unexpectedly. MDOT would like to note for the committee that the MDTA Board supports this legislation and approved the legislative concept during the December 19, 2025 Board meeting.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee issue Senate Bill 210 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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