

SB 210_MTBMA_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sakata

Position: FAV



January 29, 2025

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

RE: SB 210 – FAVORABLE – Maryland Transportation Authority – Tolls, Fees, and Other Charges – Temporary Adjustments

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance 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.

Senate Bill 210 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 Senate Bill 210.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sakata", is written over a light blue circular stamp that contains the text "Michael Sakata" and "President and CEO".

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

SB0210 - MDTA - LOS - Tolls Fees and Other Charges

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV

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,

Bradley Ryon
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Maryland Department of Transportation
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