



Odette Ramos

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**HB559- Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculations
February 10, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Honorable Chair Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee and
Honorable Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

I am writing to urge your support of **HB559- Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants – Calculations**. Thanks to Delegate Edelson for his sponsorship of this important bill.

Highway User Revenues are an important funding source to ensure our infrastructure needs for our roads and bridges are met. It is flexible funding that is allowed to be used for matching funds for federal and state dollars for our roads and bridges, and can be used for resurfacing, traffic calming, and other important capital needs.

In 2009, the amount of Highway User Revenues was significantly decreased to patch holes in the state budget. This resulted in Baltimore City losing almost \$900 million for several years after that, until 2022. This meant that projects could not be funded, and that Baltimore City used revenue bonds to borrow money to meet our needs.

Thanks to the additional funding provided in 2022, Baltimore City has significantly increased our road resurfacing, traffic calming projects, and bridges to state of good repair. My constituents see the difference with speed bumps, bump outs, and smooth roads.

There is a lot more to do. Baltimore has millions of dollars more of projects to bring our roads and bridges to the state of good repair. Moreover, Baltimore City continues to maintain our state roads, which are also used by people outside of our city limits. Highway User Revenues therefore allow us to maintain the roads with state dollars to help residents from across the state get to their health care appointments, their jobs downtown, and to the football and baseball games.

Without the expansion of HUR, we will be forced to reduce our maintenance of our roads by 68% which will have a significant impact.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your favorable report. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I can be reached on 410-396-4814 or via email at odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov.

Respectfully Submitted:

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