

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Re: Support for House Bill 230 (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026)

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Washington Partnership (the Partnership), I am writing to express our support for the Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026 (HB 230). This bill will ensure that Maryland's transportation investments are aligned with state policy goals and that funding decisions are transparent, performance-driven, and accountable to the public.

The Partnership is a nonprofit alliance of nearly 50 leading corporate, university, and nonprofit employers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia committed to championing the region's growth. Our member organizations provide 647,000 direct and supported jobs through their economic activity across the region, and together we leverage our collective resources to identify shared challenges and offer solutions to the region's critical workforce, transportation, and economic development challenges. Recognizing the importance of mobility to our economic competitiveness, the Partnership developed the [Blueprint for Regional Mobility](#), an employer-informed strategy to enhance the transportation system from Baltimore to Richmond. A core recommendation of the Blueprint is to make transportation investment decisions more transparent, more data driven, and more clearly tied to long-term regional outcomes.

MDOT's current Chapter 30 project prioritization process is complex and difficult for local jurisdictions, transportation stakeholders, and residents to navigate. It is often unclear how projects are scored, how those scores translate into funding allocations in the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), and how well the process reflects broader state goals. The lack of clarity can make it harder for counties, municipalities, and regional partners to plan effectively, steward limited resources, and build public trust in the process.

HB 230 would strengthen MDOT's project prioritization process by clarifying evaluation criteria, improving transparency around how projects are prioritized, and reinforcing the use of objective performance measures. A clearer and more consistent framework will help ensure that each transportation dollar delivers the greatest possible return for the state. It will also give local governments and project sponsors a better understanding of how to design proposals that advance shared state and regional priorities – from improving access to major job centers to supporting transit-oriented development.

For the business community, predictability and accountability in transportation planning and investments are essential. By reinforcing a transparent, data-informed prioritization process, HB 230 will help Maryland make smarter, more strategic investments that strengthen economic competitiveness and expand opportunities across the state. For these reasons, we urge a **favorable** report on HB 230. Thank you for your consideration and shared commitment to making this region the best place to live, work, and build a business.

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