



House Bill 559

Transportation – Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculation

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Appropriations Committee

Date: February 6, 2026

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

Worcester County supports House Bill 559, which would give the county a predictable stream of revenue to continue providing citizens with safe and reliable roadways.

Under current law, the counties will face a \$110 million reduction in local road funding in a single year. This bill would prevent that cut, which is critical considering counties are responsible for maintaining 80% of the state's roadways. A predictable revenue stream is vital in allowing local jurisdictions to plan multi-year paving and bridge projects. In Worcester County, Highway User Revenues make up a third of our \$6 million roads budget. If that figure drops, contributions from the general fund, which is already grappling with growing costs in public safety, education, and other necessary services, will have to increase.

Highway User Revenues remain the primary funding source for local roads and bridges. Our citizens rely on safe roads each and every day. A decrease in Highway User Revenue will result in delayed resurfacing, postponed repairs and expensive emergency fixes. The state does not allow local fuel taxes or vehicle registration taxes. Without a fair share of Maryland's transportation revenues, counties will not be able to maintain the safe roads citizens expect and deserve.

We urge you to support House Bill 559. Thank you.