
March 31, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 606 – Maryland E-ZPass Commuter Fairness and Transparency Act

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) support Senate Bill 606 and offer the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

SB 606 requires MDTA to submit a report on *E-ZPass* discount plans and unused commuter trips over several calendar years. The MDTA appreciates the bill sponsor’s collaborative approach. Prior to introducing SB 606, the bill sponsor reached out to MDTA about his intention to introduce legislation related to commuter plans and Unused Commuter Trip (UUCT) charges. The reporting requirements and timeframes called for in SB 606 are reasonable to address the issues.

The MDTA offers a range of *E-ZPass* discount plans optimized for commuters and other frequent toll facility users who have an *E-ZPass* Maryland account. A discount plan could save a commuter up to 77% when compared to the rate of a video toll. If a commuter’s monthly statement shows UUCT charges, then they are not commuting or traveling frequently enough to use the required trips within the discount plan cycle. Receiving a UUCT charge on a statement does not mean a customer isn’t benefiting from a commuter plan. For instance, if Baltimore Area commuters travel between 24 and 49 times in a 45-day period, they will still save money. Their trips will cost less than \$3 per trip (MD *E-ZPass* rate) but more than \$1.40 per trip (steepest discount). Information about MDTA’s commuter plans can be found on the DriveEzMD website.

After early collaboration with the bill sponsor, the MDTA conducted a data review of *E-ZPass* Maryland accounts with an active Baltimore Region Commuter Plan. The MDTA found that, out of almost 392,000 open/active Baltimore Region Commuter Discount Plan, less than 3% of account holders receive no benefit from their plans. Specifically, there were 9,084 plans where \$37 or more in UUCTs were charged for three back-to-back cycles within the past 12 months. The MDTA is contacting customers who have an active Baltimore Region Discount Plan and incurred at least \$37 in UUCT charges for three consecutive cycles to suggest that the customer consider their travel habits and determine if the discount plan is still of benefit.

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Page Two

The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority respectfully request the committee to consider this information during its deliberations and issue Senate Bill 606 and a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Ryon
Manager, Government Affairs
Maryland Transportation Authority
410-387-5253

Matt Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090