

ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive

ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration



JOSEPH J. SIEMEK, P.E.
Director of Public Works

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21014

RE: Letter of Support on Senate Bill 288 - Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants – Calculation

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

Before you today is legislation – SB 288 – that we strongly believe will help to keep our County roads safe and effective for the public that lives, works or travels in Harford County, by automobile, truck, motorcycle, bicycle or pedestrian means.

Currently, Harford County receives approximately \$5.5 Million in Highway User Revenue funding. Those funds are used to preserve and improve local roadway and bridge projects, reduce the cost of emergency repairs, and overall maintain safe and reliable roadways. Any loss of this revenue will unquestionably result in longer and more costly repair and replacement expenditures that our Counties, and our citizens must absorb.

Harford County Department of Public Works is responsible for maintenance of over 1,100 miles of roads and 230 bridges within the County. Our road assets also include over 34,700 road signs, 5,900 streetlights, 13,900 storm drain inlets, 3,400 culverts and 350 miles of underground storm drain pipes. Please note that this amount is over 1 ½ times the mileage maintained by the State Highway Administration in Harford County.

We take great pride in our commitment to traffic safety and longevity of service of all of our critical infrastructure, which includes our County road network. With that commitment comes a requirement to dedicate adequate personnel and resources to design and construct repairs, resurfacing, and reconstruction of our roadways as necessary to keep our roads safe and reliable. This vital work also includes maintenance and repairs of our

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bridges, storm drain inlet and pipeline systems, handicap ramps within intersections, as well as traffic control and calming systems.

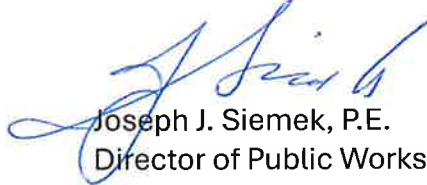
A significant source of funding for these necessary functions of our Department of Public Works has historically been State Highway User Revenues (HUR) as distributed to the Counties and Municipalities in Maryland. Although slowly rising in recent years, the total amount of HUR funding provided by the State of Maryland has still only been about 50% of the amount committed back in 2009.

The result of this long period of underfunding the amount of HUR allocated to the Counties has required Harford County to delay and defer critical maintenance and repair efforts to our road network and its appurtenances. For example, prior to 2009, we operated on a schedule of resurfacing our asphalt roadways approximately every 15 to 20 years. That frequency conformed to AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) guidelines, which focused on extending pavement life through structural overlays and pavement preservation techniques.

However, due to the shortfall in HUR funding over the past several years, and our corresponding delay and deferral of maintenance efforts, our average resurfacing period is now more than 30 years. As a result, we are experiencing further degradation of our aging road infrastructure, and the current and future costs for repair, resurfacing and maintenance will continue to escalate.

We appreciate the intent of SB 288 to allow for distribution of additional HUR funds to the Counties, including Harford, and we consider it a positive step forward to improve the safety and reliability of our local roadway networks.

In conclusion, we strongly support this legislation, and we thank you for your time and consideration.



Joseph J. Siemek, P.E.
Director of Public Works