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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

February 3, 2026

Honorable Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation committee,

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 288, Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculation. This legislation is a priority, not just for myself and the esteemed 14 other members of the Council I lead, but for the entirety of Baltimore City's leadership.

At this moment, Baltimore is winning; last year's homicide rate dropped to a historic low, we are making big strides to restore vacant homes and reinvest in our neighborhoods, all while sustaining our renowned cultural attractions and generating the revenue we can, locally. But in order to thrive in the long term, Baltimore needs the backing of Maryland on the basics.

Our maintenance obligations are greater than those of any other jurisdiction in the state, let alone the country, **particularly due to the responsibility we have for both I-83 and MD-295.** Baltimore's ability to keep our roads in a state of good repair and provide the other critical transportation services our residents pay for and expect, is directly dependent on the share of local funding afforded to us by the Highway User Revenue formula.

The Land Use and Transportation committee of the Baltimore City Council is hard at work, in partnership with our local DOT, to improve the agency's outcomes. However, **we cannot ask any more of City DOT**--which already contends with the exacerbated costs of deferred and emergency maintenance--**without sustainably funding the agency.** This bill would ensure that by FY31, Baltimore City would receive an additional \$22.5M in HUR revenue. At a time when our federal government is playing politics with *our* dollars and *our* shared investments, it is vital that state leaders do all they can to fortify both state *and* local governments. Updating the HUR formula's local share

I urge the committee to vote favorably on this bill. Please contact my office with any further questions.

CC: Shamoyia Gardiner, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director