



THE GREATER BETHESDA
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Better business. Stronger community.

Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

In Support of

Senate Bill 674—Transportation—Regional Transportation Authorities

March 4, 2026

Senate Budget and Taxation and Finance Committees

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 600 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill 674—Transportation—Regional Transportation Authorities.

Traffic congestion and aging infrastructure are among the biggest hurdles to economic growth and workforce retention in the Capital Region. We applaud Senator Washington for taking bold action to address this through long-term, regional transportation planning.

We are particularly supportive of three key elements in this legislation:

- **First, the NVTA-style funding model:** We highly appreciate that this bill mirrors the successful Northern Virginia Transportation Authority model by returning 30 percent of the generated revenues directly to our counties and municipalities to use strictly for transportation.
- **Second, the intentional local representation:** We strongly support ensuring that local voices are heard.
- **Third, federal competitiveness:** We support empowering the Capital Region Transportation Authority to aggressively pursue and negotiate federal infrastructure grants, which will bring vital federal dollars back to Maryland.

We are always sensitive to additional taxes imposed on Montgomery County and Maryland residents. As you continue to contemplate the sources of revenue for these authorities, we urge you to balance the needs of the program with the reality of the economy. We do appreciate, though, that the burden of supporting these authorities is not placed solely on the commercial sector. With a flexible approach to revenue generation, this bill will be a massive win for the Capital Region's economy.

We respectfully urge a favorable report with these considerations.