



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 288 – Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculation

DATE: February 3, 2026
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **SB 288 – Transportation - Highway User Revenues Capital Grants - Calculation** a favorable report.

This legislation, with sponsor amendments, aims to address the Highway User Revenue funding cliff that is currently scheduled for fiscal year 2028.

As the State has continued to struggle with budget challenges, Counties have been faced with cost shifts amid unfunded mandates. While counties have adjusted budgets to adapt to new cost shifts, the continued loss of funding is leading to tough choices and local budget cuts. Highway User Revenues are a crucial funding mechanism for local governments, as this revenue stream is the primary funding mechanism for local roads and bridges.

Frederick County is proud to have a safe, accessible, and reliable transportation system. However, without Highway User Revenues, we run the risk of significantly delaying transportation system upgrades such as road resurfacing, bridge repairs, traffic safety improvements, and snow and storm responses. The current fiscal cliff that is facing Highway User Revenues puts Frederick County, and all Maryland jurisdictions, at risk for having a significant decline in our quality of roads and bridges as it would lead to a loss of nearly \$110 million. This loss of funding would be devastating to counties as local jurisdictions cannot make up for this funding gap alone.

SB 288 would hold counties harmless from the 2028 Highway User Revenues fiscal cliff and preserve a predictable revenue stream for jurisdictions to continue the road and bridge maintenance that Marylanders rely on. During the Consolidated Transportation Plan tour, constituents consistently attend and advocate for projects throughout the County to the State. Our residents are counting on us to fund maintenance and repairs of our transportation network and preserving the funding mechanism to do just that is incredibly important. I understand that budgets are tight, and inflation is continuously changing. However, we must ensure that our basic transportation infrastructure remains safe and reliable for our residents.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 288. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.

Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD