



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation

DATE: March 4, 2026

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

BILL: SB 674

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports with amendment Senate Bill 674: Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities. The bill establishes three regional transportation authorities and new transportation funding mechanisms. The MML amendment would allow for subsequent regional authorities to be created.

Transportation infrastructure is critical to moving people and goods in an efficient manner. However, prioritizing projects, cohesive planning, and adequate funding are challenging. Particularly in the current fiscal climate, transportation infrastructure needs are high, but funding is struggling to keep pace. Municipal governments maintain almost 10% of the lane miles in the State yet receive only 3% of highway user revenue (HUR), so the responsibility at the local level is significant and the dedicated funding mechanism is relatively low.

The framework and funding in SB 674 fundamentally alter transportation policy in a unique and potentially beneficial manner. The funding piece is particularly impactful for local governments as it would add on top of existing HUR. Even with the municipal portion of HUR returning to levels near what was provided for the decades preceding the historic HUR cuts in 2009, municipal governments still have a backlog of projects and current transportation funding gaps. The surcharges created in the bill would provide a source of additional funding for local governments to better fulfill local transportation needs.

MML represents 161 local governments from across the State and proposes an amendment to allow for the creation of subsequent regional authorities in addition to those created in the bill.

“A group of three or more counties not already a member of a regional authority created under this section may petition the General Assembly to be created as a regional authority under this section if a majority of the counties and municipalities in those counties sign the petition.”

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report with the above amendment on Senate Bill 674.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

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