



The County Commissioners of Kent County
Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator | G. Robert Mowell, County Attorney

January 30, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT Senate Bill 0288 Transportation – Highway User Revenues Capital Grants – Calculation

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, this letter serves as support for Senate Bill 0288 Transportation – Highway User Revenues Capital Grants – Calculation. Kent County strongly supports Senate Bill 0288, which, with sponsor amendments, prevents a significant reduction in Highway User Revenue in FY2028. Under current law, Kent County faces a sudden and damaging reduction in local road funding, threatening the ability to maintain safe and reliable transportation infrastructure. This would mean limiting activities such as patching and crack sealing, which do not improve roadways but merely slow degradation and deterioration. In Kent County, Highway User Revenues are a critical funding source that directly supports road resurfacing, bridge maintenance, traffic safety improvements, and snow and storm response. As a rural jurisdiction responsible for maintaining a substantial local road network, Kent County relies on predictable funding to plan and implement multi-year capital projects and minimize costly emergency repairs. As with other counties, Kent County lacks independent authority to raise transportation revenue. SB 0288 prevents funding from slipping backward and preserves Kent County's ability to continue advocating for a fair, long-term restoration of Highway User Revenues. For these reasons, Kent County respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 0288.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelley L. Heller", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Shelley L. Heller
County Administrator

SLH: smb

cc: The County Commissioners of Kent County
The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
The Honorable Jay A. Jacobs
The Honorable Steven J. Arentz
The Honorable Jefferson L. Ghrist