



**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 916 – Transportation – Regional Transportation Authorities
SUPPORT**

Good afternoon, Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 916. We are thankful to Delegate Spiegel for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council unanimously support HB 916, which would establish regional transportation authorities in the Baltimore, Capital, and Southern Maryland regions of the State. The authorities would conduct general oversight of regional transportation programs, including priority setting, planning, and implementation of large-scale transportation projects. Each authority would adopt a regional transportation plan that supports mobility, safety, accessibility, and economic development.

HB 916 takes an innovative approach to addressing the ongoing lack of State funding for major transportation projects. Transportation Trust Fund revenues have been steadily declining in recent years due to increased use of fuel-efficient, hybrid, and electric vehicles. HB 916 would raise supplemental revenue dedicated for large scale transportation projects by levying regional surcharges on sales, use of a taxable service, hotel lodging, and the transfer of real property.

We support the revenue-sharing arrangement under HB 916, which would allocate thirty percent of the revenues generated in a municipality to the municipality and seventy percent to the State. The same funding distribution would apply to Counties. These additional revenues would provide the State, counties, and municipalities with the opportunity to make additional investments in critical transportation infrastructure projects. Increased transportation funding would expedite the forward progress the City is making towards achieving its Vision Zero program goals.

HB 916 is an important step forward as it offers a creative solution to solving the State's transportation funding issues. By taking a regional approach to transportation, generating critically needed revenues, and encouraging multijurisdictional collaboration, this legislation has the potential to dramatically improve the quality of infrastructure in our communities and stimulate economic growth in Maryland. For these reasons we urge the Committee to provide HB 916 with a favorable report.