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February 26, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1200 – Vehicle Laws – Electronic and Video Tolls – Exemption for Registered Owners Undergoing Cancer Treatment***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) take no position on House Bill 1200 and offer the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1200 exempts the registered owner of a vehicle from being liable for payment of video tolls if the owner provides the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) or its duly authorized agent certain information regarding the owner's cancer treatment.

HB 1200 mandates an exemption based on the health status of an individual. Toll exemptions for health reasons are not permissible under MDTA's Trust Agreement. Although the MDTA cannot offer free passage on its toll roads as proposed in HB 1200, MDTA does offer a variety of *E-ZPass* discount plans optimized for commuters and other frequent toll facility users who have an *E-ZPass* Maryland account. In addition, the MDTA now offers an installment payment plan to help Maryland drivers resolve outstanding toll debt. This program provides financial relief by reducing civil penalties and allowing customers to pay off their debt over time.

Specific to the bill, the registered owner must meet several requirements before the exemption from toll liability applies. The registered owner must be the driver of the vehicle or be under active transportation, and the registered owner must provide MDTA or its duly authorized agent with certain medical documentation demonstrating that the registered owner is between scheduled cancer treatments as part of an ongoing course of treatment at the time of the video toll transaction. The back-end verification of the data to absolve the registered owner of the toll liability would require additional MDTA staff to manage the administrative activities. Further, the medical documentation provided may demonstrate that an individual was treated on a certain day but may not necessarily demonstrate a nexus between treatment and use of the toll facility. Finally, it is worth noting that MDTA or its duly authorized agent would be in receipt of sensitive healthcare information about the individual, leading to questions of storage and duty of care.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority respectfully request that the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1200

Respectfully submitted,

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