



# Charles County Government

## CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*  
Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*  
Gilbert O. Bowling, III  
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.  
Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D.

**Deborah E. Hall, CPA**  
*Acting County Administrator*

February 26, 2026

Bill: House Bill 916 Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities  
Position: UNFAVORABLE  
Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Dear Chairman Korman, Vice Chairwoman Guyton and Members:

On behalf of the County Commissioners for Charles County, this letter is to express our opposition to HB 916 Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities. This bill proposes Regional Transportation Authorities and new transportation-related surcharges.

The Board of County Commissioners value regional collaboration in transportation planning. This is evidenced by our ongoing commitment and strong working relationship with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) Tri-County, Regional Transportation Coordination Committee. However, we are concerned that this bill fails to provide local governments with the appropriate level of decision-making authority in light of our predominant responsibility for building and maintaining Maryland's roadways.

We continue to await full restoration of the Highway User Revenues in order to support local infrastructure. In the interim, the proposed fiscal 2027 budget still lacks appropriate funding levels, leaving counties to meet the obligation to support local infrastructure without sufficient State funding. We build and maintain the majority to the roads in our County, and HB 916 raises serious concerns about our ability to make decisions for the betterment of our community without added bureaucracy. The process proposed in HB 916 could complicate an already complicated process. It is not clear how the regional organization would interact with the counties or add layers of approval to the current process.

For the reasons provided herein, The Board of County Commissioners for Charles County urge an UNFAVORABLE report by the House Environment and Transportation Committee on House Bill 916.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ralph Patterson II".

Ralph Patterson, Vice President  
County Commissioners of Charles County