

Nawrocki HB 1508 Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Ryan Nawrocki

Position: FAV

RYAN NAWROCKI
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Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees

Energy

Motor Vehicle and Transportation

Non-Energy Utilities

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 12, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

For the record, I am Delegate Ryan Nawrocki, requesting a favorable report on HB 1508.

HB 1508 requires the State Highway Administration to provide prompt notice when an application is submitted for an access permit on a state highway for certain project types to each member of the General Assembly representing the legislative district where the work is proposed. The notice would include basic information about the project's location, nature, and scope.

This bill is fundamentally about communication and transparency. Projects on state highways can significantly impact traffic, local businesses, and the daily routines of our constituents. Yet too often, legislators learn about these projects only after disruptions have already begun, typically from constituents who are understandably frustrated.

HB 1508 establishes a simple and reasonable expectation: when work is proposed on a state highway within a legislative district, the elected representatives of that district should be notified promptly and provided with the information necessary to understand the potential impact.

Importantly, this bill does not delay projects, create new approval requirements, or add regulatory hurdles. It simply ensures timely communication. With early notice, legislators can better respond to constituent concerns, coordinate with local officials, and help facilitate communication between residents, businesses, and the State Highway Administration.

In practice, this will improve transparency, reduce confusion, and strengthen coordination between state agencies and elected representatives. Our constituents expect their elected officials to be informed about significant activity affecting their communities. HB 1508 helps ensure we can meet that expectation.

Therefore, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1508.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Nawrocki".

Delegate Ryan Nawrocki

HB1508 - LOC - SHA - State Highway Administration

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

March 12, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Concern – House Bill 1508 – State Highway Administration – Highway Work Permits

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1508 but respectfully offers the following concerns for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1508 would require the State Highway Administration (SHA) to provide immediate notice to members of the General Assembly who represent a legislative district where a highway work permit application has been submitted.

The SHA appreciates the bill sponsor's consideration and acceptance of a few of the proposed amendments that will limit the scope of the permits covered by the bill, allow SHA to direct developers to provide the notices, remove construction start date information that SHA typically does not receive, and make clear that public involvement in access permitting is not required. SHA remains concerned about jurisdictional authority and the anticipated administrative burden that would be incurred to effectively implement the requirements of the bill. The SHA believes that the requirements of HB 1508 are most appropriate to be implemented by the local jurisdiction where the development occurs.

The authority to approve land use, zoning, and development belongs exclusively to the local jurisdiction. SHA's role in development is limited to access management as authorized by State law and regulations. Access management is technical and limited to ensuring that developer-imposed impacts to the State highway system are effectively mitigated. Any development seeking to build along a State highway is required to obtain an access permit from SHA.

Typically, local jurisdictions have public meetings and comment periods for land use, zoning, and developments before the development is approved. SHA receives an access permit request only after the development is already approved by the local jurisdiction and developers have incurred significant engineering expenses towards their site development and access approaches. Therefore, SHA does not offer an additional layer of public engagement on developments, as SHA's role is limited to ensuring that roadway mitigation is appropriate for the development's impacts. The SHA understands that the intent of HB 1508 is to ensure that elected officials are made aware of anticipated developments in the communities they represent, giving the respective elected officials the opportunity to share the development with their constituents. In many cases, development is proposed to the local jurisdiction for land use and zoning considerations months and sometimes years in advance of access permit submission to SHA. The local jurisdiction is best

The Honorable Marc Korman
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positioned to give elected officials and their constituents sufficient opportunity to engage early in the process for land use decisions.

The SHA understands that it is the intent of the bill sponsor that HB 1508 only applies to access permits, and the SHA appreciates that the bill sponsor is planning to amend the bill accordingly. The SHA receives over 1,000 submissions for access permit requests each year. If HB 1508 is amended to narrow the scope of the type of qualifying access permits and for notice to be provided upon issuance, the number of submissions captured would be significantly less. From submission to permit issuance, the process requires a Traffic Impact Study and Plan Review, with timelines that vary based on project type. In many cases, an access permit submission will not proceed for a variety of reasons on the part of the developer or local jurisdiction. HB 1508 would require SHA to provide over 1,000 notices of access permit requests, many of which may not proceed to additional review stages or receive an approved permit.

The SHA is supportive of sustainable and responsible growth and development that support Maryland's economy and communities. For those reasons, MDOT recommends that any advanced notice of proposed development be provided by local jurisdictions that are responsible for land use, zoning, and approving development.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1508.

Respectfully submitted,

April Moeller
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