
April 9, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support – House Bill 669 – State Highway Administration - Third-Party Road Improvements - Required Work Schedule

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of support for the committee's consideration of House Bill 669.

HB 669 authorizes the State Highway Administration (SHA) to require nongovernmental applicants for State highway work permits to submit a schedule for the work to be performed under the permit. The bill requires a person issued a permit to perform the permitted work in accordance with the work schedule and authorizes the SHA to revoke the permit or hold the permitholder liable for damages incurred if the permitholder fails to complete the work in accordance with the approved schedule.

As amended by the House, HB 669 reflects a compromise approach agreed upon by SHA and industry. This legislation addresses a critical gap in the oversight of private development projects impacting State highways. Often, when new developments occur, developers are required to construct frontage and/or offsite improvements, including road improvements, necessary to address the increase in vehicle trips and safety risks associated with the development, such as traffic signals, pedestrian beacons, crosswalks, or sidewalks. These requirements help jurisdictions ensure that developments mitigate their impacts and that adequate vehicle and pedestrian service levels are in place or reasonably assured during the development process.

However, the timing of these third-party road improvements is not consistently coordinated, and when improvements are not completed in a timely fashion, SHA receives complaints from communities, road users, and elected officials, primarily about work zone conditions, traffic delays, safety concerns, and rough temporary pavement.

The provisions of HB 669 carry out administrative changes SHA is making to its permitting process in coordination with industry and would be an effective tool to ensure third-party road improvements are effectively completed. HB 669 ensures that timely completion of traffic safety and operational improvements are prioritized and will encourage developers to coordinate early schedules with the State. Furthermore, HB 669 ensures that developments successfully deliver on required improvements. In some cases, when roadwork is not adequately completed by the developer, SHA must go behind the developer to either finish the work or advance an improvement project that effectively mitigates their impacts. Thus, SHA incurs unprogrammed costs to the Transportation Trust Fund.

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MDOT believes HB 669 reflects a common-sense approach and would be a valued process improvement that will protect taxpayers, improve transparency and predictability, and enhance the safety of Maryland's highways for motorists and pedestrians alike.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee issue House Bill 669 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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