



THE  
MARYLAND  
MUNICIPAL  
LEAGUE

## **2015 MML Legislative Priorities**

### **Restored Funding of Municipal Highway User Revenues**

Highway User Revenues (HURs), generated by state taxes on gasoline and vehicle fees on registrations, have been shared with local governments for nearly 70 years. Historically, the State has shared 30% of these monies with counties and municipalities based on road mileage and vehicle registrations. However, as part of state budget cuts beginning in 2009 and in each subsequent year, local governments have received significantly less revenue – as much as 96% lower in some years. The MML membership has approved as a 2015 legislative priority the restoration of municipal HURs to at least pre-recession levels.

### **Local Governing Body Consideration and Approval of Comprehensive Plan Recommendations**

The MML membership has identified an ambiguity in current law regarding the approval process for local comprehensive plans and amendments to those plans. Existing law appears to allow elected bodies only to approve or reject a comprehensive plan recommendation submitted by a jurisdiction's planning commission without the option to either make changes prior to taking action on a plan or plan amendment or to remand the plan back to a planning commission with recommendations to amend portions of the plan. There is additional concern that the current 60-day window during which a municipality must act upon planning commission comprehensive plan recommendations is too short. MML will seek legislation to clarify the existing local process with regard to the adoption of a comprehensive master plan and to establish conditions under which the current 60-day master plan adoption time requirement may be extended.

### **Municipal Official Financial Disclosure Security Act**

Legislation enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2010 requires local ethics ordinances to be at least as stringent as state law. Because the information required under the financial disclosure requirements includes confidential personal financial information, the MML membership adopted as a legislative priority the passage of legislation to ensure that certain information included under state financial disclosure requirements and retained at the State level be available to the public at the municipal level only if instructed by a municipal ethics commission to do so for specified reasons.