



April 17, 2018

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) respectfully requests that you sign into law Senate Bill 516/House Bill 807, *Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Distribution*. Maryland's counties appreciate all the efforts you have taken to provide additional transportation funding to local governments, including budgeting for additional transportation grants throughout your term.

This bill – a top initiative of MACo's – codifies an important step toward restoration of highway user revenues to Maryland's counties, municipalities, and Baltimore City, for five years beginning in fiscal 2020. SB 516/HB 807 begins to address counties' long-standing top fiscal priority. It provides reliable formula funding for multiple years, allowing counties to program their capital projects accordingly.

Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City identified reinvestment in local roads, bridges, and infrastructure as one of their top legislative initiatives this Session. Local infrastructure requires reliable investment to keep Maryland moving. Recession-driven cost shifts have left local roadways lacking proper maintenance, bridges in dire need, and other public infrastructure neglected. Re-investing in infrastructure – a call heard at every level of government – is good for Maryland jobs, business attractiveness, and quality of life across the state.

Highway user revenue restoration will supply desperately needed funding to repair and maintain local roads and bridges.

As you well know, The Great Recession forced cuts to local transportation funding that were deeper than those in any other component of the state budget. Twenty-three counties' share of funds plummeted from nearly \$300 million in 2007 to only \$40 million today: an 87 percent decimation. Baltimore City alone now receives nearly \$100 million less each year than before the cuts.

The cumulative loss of local roadway investment since fiscal 2010 is well over \$3 billion.

Again, Maryland's counties are deeply grateful for your efforts in providing additional transportation funding for local governments. Please take this one last step before the conclusion of your first term, and sign into law Senate Bill 516/House Bill 807, *Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Distribution*.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jerry Walker'.

Jerry Walker
President, MACo
Council Member, Anne Arundel County

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Sanderson'.

Michael Sanderson
Executive Director, MACo