



MTBMA

MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS
AND MATERIALS ASSOCIATION

HB 710 BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

**HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MARCH 2, 2010**

SUPPORT

HB 710 creates a twenty-one member Blue Ribbon Commission to evaluate the current funding of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and recommend to the 2012 General Assembly sustainable, long-term revenue sources and options for transportation funding.

Maryland's unmet transportation needs continue to mount since last inventoried in 2003, our system preservation is being "propped up" by short-term federal stimulus dollars, and the overall transportation funding structure is woefully inadequate to meet current mobility needs. It is appropriate for a Blue Ribbon Commission to undertake a thorough review and evaluation to:

- Establish a system preservation program that adequately maintains our aging highways and bridges to ensure safety;
- Update unmet highway and transit needs that will address congestion relief and enhance mobility;
- Offer an array of options for restructuring how our transportation system is funded,
- Develop a strategy for increasing Maryland's share of available federal transportation funding;
- Enhance the relationship between those who use a particular transportation system and those who pay for that system;
- Ensure that revenues keep pace with inflation as well as conform to other State policies; and
- Maintain the integrity of the TTF by keeping transportation revenues for transportation purposes.

The TTF's current revenue structure is insufficient to meet the expenses of today's transportation infrastructure needs. More creative funding solutions must be developed. We are not able to adequately maintain the transportation network that we have let alone address congestion mitigation. Undertaking a thorough transportation funding review is an imperative.

The transportation construction industry plays a critical role in building the State's transportation network and a member of the industry should serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable report on HB 710.**

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