



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of HB 1187: Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Committee,

The importance of fully restoring Highway User Revenues to Maryland counties and municipalities cannot be understated. I stand with government leaders from 23 other jurisdictions across the state requesting your support for House Bill 1187.

Since the Great Recession, critical funding for local roads was stripped by 90% resulting in an overall loss of approximately \$4.5 billion statewide since 2007. Over the last 13 years, Howard County has lost more than \$193 million in funding to maintain our 1,200 miles of local roads, bridges and transportation infrastructure. Our roads provide both local and regional travel to neighboring counties and this draconian deficit has meant diverting funding from other local budget line items to continue maintenance on our local roads.

Although recession-driven cutbacks have been fully or largely restored in other areas, highway user revenues have remained historically low, even after the State enacted a transportation revenue increase. This bill offers an opportunity to restore the state and local share for transportation revenues to the pre-recession level and a statewide renewed cooperation and commitment to prioritizing our highway infrastructure.

House Bill 1187 is an opportunity to provide full restoration of highway user revenues to county governments which will ensure safe, well maintained roads across Maryland counties and municipalities. Re-investing in infrastructure is good for the safety of our residents, quality of life improvements, our businesses, and the long-term health of Maryland's economy overall.

Passing HB 1187 is an important step in ensuring the equitable distribution of funding for all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. We ask for your partnership and urge a favorable report on HB 1187.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive