

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President of the Senate
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed Senate Bill 97 – *Purple Line Marketing Act*.

This bill is premature in its timeline, reduces budget flexibility, and legislatively unnecessary. Over the past 13 months, nearly every revenue source of the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) has been significantly impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) continues to piece together the resources needed to ensure there are no detrimental impacts to Maryland's transportation system. As the revenue declines associated with COVID-19 have underscored, it is imperative that MDOT retain the flexibility to respond to changing economic conditions.

MDOT has in-depth experience with developing marketing plans for major transportation projects and I am confident that their team is developing a superior plan for the Purple Line on a timeline and with a budget that they believe is appropriate. The process for selecting a new design-build contractor to complete the Purple Line project is currently ongoing. Until a firm is selected, a construction schedule is confirmed, and a new and revised in-service date for the Purple Line is established, it is premature to mandate funds for a marketing plan. Once there is a more definitive timeline, MDOT will work with the surrounding community and partners to implement an effective marketing plan, and our Administration will ensure they have the necessary resources to do so.

As Maryland continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary that we allocate funds and resources for the most immediate and necessary projects. Any mandated spending at this point is detrimental, and we need to be focused on rebuilding our State's economy in a responsible way.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 97.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor