



**STATEMENT BY
THE GREATER BETHESDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
REGARDING
HB1249 - I-495 AND I-270 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP - PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
- REQUIREMENTS (MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROMISES ACT OF 2020)
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 2020
POSITION: UNFAVORABLE REPORT**

On behalf of our 550-member businesses and more than 45,000 employees in Montgomery County, this statement is in **Opposition to HB1249 - I-495 and I-270 Public-Private Partnership - Partnership Agreement - Requirements (Maryland State Department of Transportation Promises Act of 2020)**.

This bill is, once again an opportunity to curtail and cripple efforts to see the much-needed P3 materialize. Imposing limitations on the use of dedicated transit funds and establishing a myriad of nuisance requirements that must be satisfied prior to the issuance of a final Request for Proposal is close to irresponsible in its suggestion within the confines of the bill.

The requirement to share origin and destination data with other agencies is pointless and redundant since local agencies already have access to all this information in the COG traffic model which is the basis for MDOT's traffic analyses. The bill also requires redundant environmental studies already underway in conjunction with the NEPA process or through MDOT.

This bill toys with cutting off funds if some of the more onerous and repetitive requirements are not met. Any implication of such uncertainty could seriously delay or endanger the project's future and wreak havoc on the issuance of the P3. This is not a path that your constituents support. We appreciate your consideration of our remarks and ask that you give HB1249 an Unfavorable Report.