

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Testimony on: HB 1249 – I-495 & I-270 P3 Agreement – MDOT Promises Act of 2020

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 5, 2020

I think it is very important to support the Maryland State Department of Transportation Promises Act of 2020 – HB 1249. This bill would force the Administration and MDOT to keep the promises it made when it was trying to convince the Comptroller to vote in favor of the P3. Several promises were made and this bill codifies them.

This bill is needed because promises are not always kept. As an example, the Harry Nice Bridge had been planned to have separated bike/ped lanes, but when the time came to award the contract, the Administration backed off the earlier plan for separated lane and went with a cheaper option.

Just as anyone would want to have all the details spelled out before entering a contract (e.g., taking out a home mortgage or closing on a house), so too the details promised in order to secure Comptroller Franchot's vote in favor of the 495/270 P3 proposal must be spelled out in writing so that we know what we can count on as we go forward.

A favorable report on HB 1249 will make clear the promises made regarding the 495/270 P3 project.

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