



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**SB 229**  
**(Senator Lee)**  
**Finance Committee**

Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County  
Government Consent Requirement – Expansion

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT

**SB229** – Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement – Expansion- FOR the purpose of expanding to all counties in the State a prohibition on State agencies constructing a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge without the consent of the affected county (or Baltimore City).

Since 1971, MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating, and improving the State's toll facilities and for financing new revenue-producing transportation projects. MDTA has the authority to set tolls on transportation facilities projects under its supervision. There are currently two transportation projects in the planning stage that involve tolls: the third span across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Governor's Traffic Relief Plan.

This legislation seeks to address an issue that has been raised across the state, and over the course of many years, by providing local government officials the authority to consent on transportation matters that impact their communities. Currently only 9 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions are afforded this opportunity. Expanding the right of consent to the governments of all affected counties is long overdue.

The Prince George's County Council takes seriously its responsibility to attain the transportation goals of our constituents. As we travel our roads daily, we have firsthand knowledge of our transportation needs. Each year the Council develops the County's transportation priorities and provides that information to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). All too often, we find projects supported and funded by MDOT that were not among our priorities. The authority for local governments to weigh in on State transportation projects in their communities will help ensure the proper balance for creating the framework needed for transportation priorities and investments, while delivering the best system for the traveling public.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB 229** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

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Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING  
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

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