
February 18, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 912 – Maryland Transportation Authority – Video Tolls – Collection

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) take no position on House Bill 912 but offer the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 912 extends the sunset on the provision that authorizes the MDTA to recall a delinquent account from the State’s Central Collection Unit (CCU) if (1) the delinquent account exceeds \$300 in unpaid video tolls and associated civil penalties; (2) the video tolls in question were assessed within a 30-day period; and (3) the MDTA determines that mitigating factors exist regarding the assessment of the unpaid video tolls and associated penalties. The legislation further authorizes the MDTA to waive any portion of the video toll due or civil penalty assessed if an account is recalled from CCU.

The extension of the sunset provision of Senate Bill 973 of 2018 will allow MDTA to continue with the flexibility needed to work with our customers. The MDTA and CCU have a cooperative working relationship where MDTA debt can be recalled. CCU objections to MDTA’s requests to recall debt have not been problematic. However, extending the sunset provision would serve to formalize current practices. All *E-ZPass*® inquiries pertaining to CCU debt are either received through direct customer contact to *E-ZPass* or CCU referring customers back to *E-ZPass* for resolution. All customer cases are handled on an individual basis following the bill’s guidelines. From mid-2013 through 2019, MDTA has recalled/cancelled approximately 834,000 transactions from CCU, totaling almost \$45 million. Of this amount, \$38.4 million of unpaid tolls and civil penalties were dismissed and \$5.7 million were paid.

Since 1971, the MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating and improving the State’s eight toll facilities, as well as for financing new transportation projects under its purview (such as the Governor Harry W. Nice/Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge in Charles County). The MDTA is entirely reliant on tolls collected from its users as the MDTA does not receive any state General Fund or Transportation Trust Fund dollars and is governed by a 9-member Board with the Secretary of Transportation serving as Chair.

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The Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority respectfully request the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 912.

Respectfully submitted,

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