

February 2, 2021

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

**Re: *Letter of Information – House Bill 510 – Transportation - Private Sector
Transportation Projects Ombudsman – Establishment***

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 510 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

House Bill 510 requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Private Sector Transportation Projects Ombudsman within MDOT who would be responsible for responding to concerns, complaints, and other inquiries in a timely manner from Maryland residents, local government officials, and other entities regarding private sector transportation projects being developed or tested. The Ombudsman would be given resources to respond in a timely manner, and the employee's contact information would be on the MDOT website and in the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP).

There are currently two privately funded transportation projects that exist in the State of Maryland: Maglev and Loop (formerly known as Hyperloop). Both are currently undergoing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process.

MDOT has previously appointed Lisa Webb to serve in this Ombudsman role. For questions regarding either of the aforementioned projects, or any that may arise in the future, Ms. Webb is available for legislators and constituents to contact via the following:

Lisa Webb, CEcD
Manager, P3 & Innovative Project Delivery
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, MD 21076
Phone: 410-865-1050
Email: LWebb@mdot.maryland.gov

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Ms. Webb has a great deal of experience working with State and local governments on major infrastructure projects. She is both knowledgeable and responsive. The Maryland Department of Transportation is confident that Ms. Webb will be receptive and responsive to any questions on private sector transportation projects that are being developed or tested within Maryland.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information while deliberating House Bill 510.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Murphy
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