
March 3, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 635 – Maryland Emergency Management Agency,
Department of Transportation, and Department of the Environment – Study on
Historic and Recent Flooding in Prince George’s County***

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 635 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

On September 10, 2020, Prince George’s County experienced a horrific rain event during which several inches of rain fell within just a couple of hours, which caused significant flooding on US 50 between MD 201 and Columbia Park. A stream south of US 50 that travels parallel to this stretch of highway is conveyed under railroad tracks through a structure owned by Amtrak railroad company. During substantial rain events, this stream is forced onto US 50 due to the blockage of the Amtrak drainage structure.

The MDOT State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) has been working with Amtrak since 2019 to mitigate the flooding on US 50. The MDOT SHA maintenance crews have routinely conducted projects in the area such as cleaning, inspecting, and repairing culverts in MDOT SHA right-of-way.

The MDOT respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 635.

Respectfully Submitted,

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