



JAN H. GARDNER
Frederick County
Executive

SB 726

Transportation – Highway
User Revenues – Revenue and
Distribution

County Position: FAVORABLE

Date: March 9, 2022
Committee: Budget and Taxation

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for Senate Bill 726 Transportation – Highway User Revenues – Revenue and Distribution.

Recession-driven budget cuts decimated the local share of Highway User Revenues and have left local roadways, bridges, and other public infrastructure in dire need of maintenance and repair. Re-investing in infrastructure – a call heard at every level of government – is good for Maryland jobs, business attractiveness, residents' safety, and overall quality of life across the state. Frederick County is responsible for nearly 1,300 centerline miles of roadway, 222 twenty-foot-plus span bridges, 250 ten to twenty-foot span bridges, and approximately 6,000 culverts.

County Executive Gardner supports the provisions in the proposed legislation that:

- Restores the full local share of highway user revenues, holding the State to its long-standing responsibility to help fund public infrastructure and supplying desperately needed funding to repair and maintain local roads and bridges;
- Shares the responsibility of the State and of local governments to maintain and repair infrastructure in a way that reflects local governments' obligation to manage 83% of the roads across Maryland;
- Replaces a cumulative loss statewide of \$4.5B in local investments, and more than \$173M for Frederick County, for public infrastructure since fiscal year 2007; and
- Ensures ongoing, adequate funding to provide safer, better, more modern infrastructure for travel and economic development, and enables Frederick County to address the backlog of deferred projects that have been impacted as a result of these cuts in funding.

Frederick County Executive Gardner urges a **FAVORABLE** report for Senate Bill 726.