



TALBOT COUNTY ROADS DEPARTMENT MARYLAND

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WARREN W. EDWARDS, JR.
SUPERINTENDENT

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair – Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Jim Rosapepe
Vice-Chair – Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB726 – TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY USER REVENUES – REVENUE AND DISTRIBUTION

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members:

TALBOT COUNTY ROADS DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS SB726/HB1187.

Talbot County maintains a total of 372.3 miles of roadway. With the increase in traffic in recent years, numerous sections of road are failing and in need of critical attention, which is costly.

We currently have approximately 11.5 miles of roadway paved with asphalt. Three miles of asphalt roadway which were widened and improved approximately 15 years ago desperately need patching, milling and overlay. The cost to do this work alone would cost approximately \$900,000. The remaining roads are tar and chip surface with an average of 9' to 20' in width. In order to widen these roads and make them safe for emergency vehicles and other traffic, a very timely process of acquiring rights-of-way and property is required, not to mention the actual work. The estimated cost to tar and chip surface Talbot County roads would approach \$420 million, not including the cost of right-of-way acquisition.

Ninety percent of our county roads were at one time farm lanes and dirt roads. As such, there is sub-base failure of roads throughout the county due to existing materials and drainage issues. We are currently working to replace multiple culvert pipes anywhere from 12" – 48" in diameter. The cost of these replacements vary from \$3,500 to \$50,000, depending on the depth of pipe and materials needed, etc.

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In addition, vehicles and equipment have not been replaced on a proper rotational basis. Several dump trucks and heavy equipment used on a regular basis are in constant need of repair, and costly to operate.

The Roads Department has 17 road work employees. For nine months of the year, five of those employees are mowing or cutting back brush. The remaining employees resurface roads, either with tar and chip or asphalt, repair drainage issues, replace culverts, maintain signage, trim trees and perform multiple other tasks. In addition to our regular road maintenance/drainage duties, the Roads Department averages between 125-160 citizen call-in requests per month.

The Talbot County Council has done everything possible to fund our many projects; however, it is impossible to maintain the road infrastructure in the county that needs immediate attention without the restoration of Highway User Revenues.

The Talbot County Roads Department respectfully urges the Committee to give SB726/HB1187 a FAVORABLE report to fund all local roadways.

Sincerely,

Warren W. Edwards, Jr.
Roads Superintendent