

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Re: Comments for House Bill 924 (Transportation – Regional Transportation Authorities)

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Washington Partnership, I am writing to provide comments on HB 924 (Transportation – Regional Transportation Authorities) and encourage related efforts to elevate regional transportation planning within Maryland. This bill would create three regional transportation authorities able to identify and prioritize multimodal projects meeting the unique needs of various parts of the state, tracking a model that has enhanced strategic infrastructure spending in Virginia and other states.

The Partnership is a nonprofit alliance of nearly 50 leading corporate, university and nonprofit employers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia committed to championing the region's growth and vitality. Our member organizations have more than 300,000 employees, thousands of whom rely on the transportation systems within the Baltimore and National Capital regions each day. Recognizing the importance of mobility to our economic competitiveness, the Partnership developed the [Blueprint for Regional Mobility](#) as an employer-informed strategy to improve and transform the transportation system from Baltimore to Richmond.

The creation of regional authorities has the potential to advance two of the Blueprint's central goals – to improve roadway performance and create high-performing public transit – and accelerate projects of regional significance that will alleviate congestion and expand access to opportunity, while permitting the state to retain focus on the largest projects. The Partnership is also a founding member of the [Baltimore's Transit Future](#) campaign and advocated for the creation of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission, which represents¹ a major step forward in coordinating advocacy for transportation projects and transit service that will enhance Greater Baltimore's economic vibrancy. HB 924 would build upon this effort, in Baltimore and other regions, helping ensure that transportation investments are maximally responsive to the needs of each region's residents, businesses, and institutions.

As the Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs (TRAIN) Commission works to develop long-term options for bolstering the Transportation Trust Fund, we encourage the General Assembly to consider innovative models for effectively deploying transportation dollars as contemplated by HB 924. Thank you for your consideration and shared commitment to reducing barriers to mobility and opportunity, as well as making this region the best place to live, work, and build a business.

Contact: Thomas J. Maloney

¹ See [Commentary: Red Line connecting East, West Baltimore will spur economic growth](#) (The Baltimore Banner, July 6, 2023)



Vice President, Policy & External Affairs

tmaloney@greaterwashingtonpartnership.com

