



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SB 154 Support

Budget and Taxation

Senate Hearing – January 31, 2018

SB 154 – Transportation - Highway User Revenues - Phased Restoration

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The City of Takoma Park stands with the Maryland Municipal League in urging the Budget and Taxation Committee to support restoration of Highway User Revenue.

Highway User Revenue goes directly to assist local governments to fill pot holes, repave streets and improve sidewalks along roadways. Road maintenance is a basic government responsibility. It is expensive, but is far less expensive than road reconstruction that is needed because of deferred maintenance. And it is far less expensive than losing businesses that need good roadways and sidewalks surrounding them.

Municipalities are often the most densely-developed locations in the counties – the place you find business and arts districts, colleges, hospitals and services. Municipal roads are used by commuters, delivery trucks and residents from across the State. It is fair that State Highway User Revenue assists in paying for most of the wear and tear of local roads. However, municipal taxpayers have been unfairly shouldering most of the burden of paying for road maintenance since the State changed its HUR formula in 2010.

We are asking you to shore up the HUR funding for municipal road work so we can do our part to help maintain Maryland roadways. In the past, Governor Hogan has recognized the need to provide Highway User Revenue to municipalities at levels higher than the funding formula, which we appreciate. However, the “one-time” grants we have received in the past are not something we can assume will continue and it adds a significant level of budget uncertainty to municipal governments.

The City of Takoma Park supports SB 154 and urges a favorable vote to increase the portion of highway user revenues that is distributed to local governments.