

Introduced by: Councilmember Schultz

RESOLUTION 2012-4

SUPPORTING RAISING THE TAX ON GASOLINE IN MARYLAND

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park is responsible for maintaining its roadways, sidewalks and bridges; AND

WHEREAS, Takoma Park's transportation infrastructure is used not only by its residents, but also by many who don't pay Takoma Park taxes such as commuters, visitors and travelers through the region; AND

WHEREAS, like most municipalities and counties in the State of Maryland, Takoma Park relies upon Highway User Revenue to help fund the maintenance costs of its transportation infrastructure; AND

WHEREAS, Highway User Revenue is part of the Maryland Transportation Trust Fund, which receives much of its revenue from the tax on gasoline; AND

WHEREAS, the Transportation Trust Fund has been depleted in recent years by the diversion of funds to other State needs and by the rising cost of infrastructure construction and maintenance while the tax on gasoline has not been increased since 1992; AND

WHEREAS, both the Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding and Governor O'Malley have proposed increasing the tax on gasoline to help restore the Transportation Trust Fund; AND

WHEREAS, whether it is an increase in the gas tax or the removal of the exemption of gasoline from the State's sales tax, the Takoma Park City Council understands the need to increase the revenue from this auto-related source to meet auto-related needs; AND

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council understands the difficulty of raising taxes at any time, but especially at a time of high unemployment; AND

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council believes raising the tax on gasoline is essential to be able to maintain the transportation infrastructure that is a key part of long term economic health and community livability;
AND

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park City Council urges that any increase in the tax on gasoline be accompanied by an assurance that the Transportation Trust Fund will be primarily used for transportation purposes and that Highway User Revenue will be restored to the levels of 2008 for local governments in Maryland.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park urges the Montgomery County Council and County Executive to encourage the Montgomery Delegation and the General Assembly as a whole to raise the tax on gasoline, work to assure that the Transportation Trust Fund is used for transportation purposes, and increase Highway User Revenues for local jurisdictions in the State of Maryland; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council urges the Montgomery Delegation and the General Assembly as a whole to raise the tax on gasoline, work to assure that the Transportation Trust Fund is used for transportation purposes, and increase Highway User Revenues for local jurisdictions in the State of Maryland.

ADOPTED this 6th day of February, 2012.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk