



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

FEB 27 2017

Chairman
Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

The Hon. Edward J. Kasemeyer, Chair
Senate Budget and Tax Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Lowe House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: **Prince George's County Council Bill Position –**
HB 402/SB 307 Repeal of the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act
of 2016 (Road Kill Bill Repeal) – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Kasemeyer & Delegate McIntosh:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2017 General Assembly Session. The Council met on February 14, 2017. The enclosed report reflects our position on HB402/SB307 as it is currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to the operation of Prince George's County, and the citizens of the State of Maryland. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3426. Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Derrick L. Davis
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Maryland State Governor
Hon. Boyd K. Rutherford, Maryland State Lt. Governor
Hon. Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., Senate President
Hon. Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House
Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700

County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

(HB 402/SB 307) Repeal of the Maryland Open Transportation
The Speaker of the Investment Decision Act of 2016 – (Road Kill Bill
House and President Repeal)
of the Senate on behalf
of the Governor

POSITION: OPPOSE

HB 402 repeals the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 (“The Act”) which established a scoring system where, using set criteria, transportation projects are ranked by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in order to define and reach the State’s transportation goals; and, to do so in a manner that is both equitable and transparent. This bill would repeal The Act in its entirety.

Ensuring safe and efficient passage on our roadways for the traveling public is an enormous responsibility that we all share. Because the ability to know and understand how critical transportation decisions are made is a right of our citizens, we believe that the Governor, and the Secretary of Maryland’s Department of Transportation should have a level of accountability when reallocating scarce transportation funding.

In Prince George’s County, we operate with the understanding that each Maryland jurisdiction is unique and has very distinctive transportation challenges. This is precisely why the planning, funding, and construction of transportation projects should be prioritized based on transportation goals such as safety and security, system preservation, quality of service, environmental stewardship, community vitality, economic prosperity, equitable access to transportation, cost effectiveness and return on investment, and local priorities and planning. To repeal The Act would remove transparency and bring back into question how transportation funding decisions are made, and whether they are equitable.

The process put in place by Maryland’s General Assembly to make transportation spending more rational, ensures fairness and objectivity and should not be repealed. Therefore, the County Council strongly urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 402 and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of our position.

Prince George’s County, like every other jurisdiction, has transportation issues that are unique to their area, and transportation projects designed to support our communities, economy, and environment, while ensuring safe and efficient passage on our roadways for the traveling public.

All Maryland residents should have the ability to know and understand how critical decisions are made.



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On behalf of Prince George's County Council