

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-075-2018

Draft No.: 1

Committee: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Date: 10/11/2018

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 3-0 (In favor: Council Members Turner, Lehman and Taveras)

CR-75-2018 established the Transportation Services Improvement Fund comprised of revenue produced because of an up to .25 cents per trip surcharge for trips provided by transportation network services companies originating within the borders of Prince George's County.

The Legislative Officer provided an overview of CR-75-2018. The legislation requires the promulgation of regulations to be approved by the County Council to enable the expenditure of Fund revenue. Prior to expenditure, \$1.0 million shall be held in reserve sub-account and the balance shall not fall below \$1.0 million unless approved by Council Resolution.

Revenues in the Fund may be used for five (5) purposes: Improvement and expansion of bus services, Enhancing and expanding the provision of readily available, quality, accessible taxi services in the County, Reimbursement for the provision of accessible taxicab trips, systems to monitor and assure compliance with applicable taxi legislation and other expenditures.

The resolution set forth guidelines for reimbursement and reporting. The County will make publicly available the annual dollar amounts reimbursed to an association, company, or independent driver no later than July 31 of the following calendar year in which the distributions from the Fund were made.

A report of revenues and expenditures from the Fund shall be provided to the Council no later than July 31st of each calendar year.

The Office of the County Executive liaison expressed support and the Office of law attorney finds it to be in proper legislative form and sees no legal impediments to its adoption.

Martin Harris, Deputy Director, Department of Public Works & Transportation and Geralyn Bruce, Chief, Transit Administration and Taxi Operations provided additional information and responses to Committee questions. Mr. Harris indicated support of the resolution expressing that it will secure additional buses and expand the transportation network.

A question was raised regarding the total amount of funding raised from the surcharge to date. Mr. Harris indicated several millions but expressed the need to confer with Office of Budget & Management to obtain the exact dollar amount.

A Council Member questioned who would be administering the fund and when to expect a definitive breakdown as to how the money would be spent. Mr. Harris indicated that deliberations were taken place regarding those concerns. He further indicated that once the Council approves the resolution enabling the funds to be spent, the funds would have to be built into the upcoming budget. A supplemental would be necessary in order to spend this current budget year.

In response to a Council Members concerns; Mr. Harris indicated the possibility of bus shelter being provided under this fund.

A question was raised as to how the actual dollar amount received from the State is validated.