

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2020 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-8-2020

Proposed by Council Members Glaros, Turner, Dernoga, Franklin, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter

Introduced by Council Members Glaros, Turner, Dernoga, Hawkins, Ivey, Streeter, Davis,
Harrison, Taveras and Anderson-Walker

Date of Introduction March 3, 2020

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

3 "FAST Act"

4 For the purpose of urging Congress to reform our Nation's transportation system by amending
 5 the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, (the "FAST Act"), and generally relating to
 6 supporting selected revisions to the current Federal transportation program.

7 WHEREAS, the current Federal transportation bill (the "FAST Act"), expires September
 8 30, 2020 and Congress is working on legislation to replace it; and

9 WHEREAS, America's transportation system is in a crisis that more funding alone cannot
 10 fix. Despite billions spent every year, our roads, bridges, and transit systems are in disrepair,
 11 congestion has increased, pedestrian fatalities and emissions are the highest in decades and
 12 rising, and too many people lack safe, affordable, and convenient access to jobs and important
 13 services. The time has come to elevate the national conversation about transportation beyond the
 14 spending and distribution of funds and focus on changes in the program to address these
 15 challenges; and

16 WHEREAS, under President Eisenhower, our Country developed the current transportation
 17 program to build interstate connections between cities. With the interstates now complete, and
 18 travel within communities the biggest challenge, the 70-year-old federal program continues to
 19 incentivize highway construction over all other investments and modes of travel. This has led to
 20 a significant maintenance backlog. It has also increased emissions and congestion while
 21 undermining the economic mobility and health of our communities, particularly for low-income
 22 people and people of color; and

1 WHEREAS, reforming our Nation's transportation system is necessary to reduce emissions
 2 that contribute to climate change and harm public health. Transportation is the single largest
 3 source of greenhouse gases (GHG), contributing 29 percent of the United States' total GHG
 4 emissions, with the majority of these emissions from driving. While electric vehicles (EVs) and
 5 vehicle efficiency standards are absolutely essential, they are sadly not sufficient to meet our
 6 emissions reduction goals. Neither will these technologies improve access to jobs and services
 7 for those who cannot afford a car, nor will they improve safety or reduce congestion. Providing
 8 safe and convenient ways for people to travel through their communities using shorter or fewer
 9 car trips and other forms of transportation is essential to addressing these challenges; and

10 WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
 11 (DPW&T) is responsible for nearly 2,000 miles of County-maintained roadways that range from
 12 rural to urban classifications. The transportation infrastructure includes 900 bridges, as well as
 13 shoulders, sidewalks, curbs/gutters, stormwater management facilities, driveway aprons and
 14 nearly 3,000 acres of grassy area -- all of which are maintained by staff of the DPW&T.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
 16 County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Council joins organizations, elected
 17 officials, and leaders across the Country to urge Congress to develop a bill that maintains our
 18 system, builds safer streets, and connects people to jobs and services by providing reliable
 19 transportation choices; and we call on Congress to focus on what the next transportation bill will
 20 accomplish, not just the funding level.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we further call for the following principles and
 22 outcomes to be incorporated in the bill:

- 23 • Prioritize maintenance: Cut the road, bridge and transit maintenance backlog in half; and
- 24 • Design for safety over speed: Save lives with slower safer road design; and
- 25 • Connect people to jobs and services: Determine current connectivity and prioritize projects
- 26 that improve those connections; and
- 27 • Encourage greater mass transit investment.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the County Council shall provide a copy
 29 of this Resolution to The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, The Honorable Mitch McConnell, The
 30 Honorable Kevin McCarthy, The Honorable Chuck Schumer, The Honorable Benjamin Cardin,
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1 The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, Jr., The Honorable Steny Hoyer, and The Honorable Anthony
2 Brown.

Adopted this 3rd day of March, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council