



**Maryland Chamber of Commerce**

## **Legislative Position**

**SB 894**

**FAVOR**

**Budget &  
Taxation  
Committee**

**02/24/09**

**SB 894**

### **Transportation Trust Fund Protection Act**

#### **Brief Summary of Bill:**

SB 894 prohibits the transfer of money in the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) to the general fund unless the Governor declares the transfer necessary due to extraordinary financial conditions and legislation enacted prior to the transfer provides for repayment of the funds within five years after the diversion, with repayment commencing immediately.

#### **Maryland Chamber's Position:**

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports this bill. This legislation is consistent with the Chamber's business agenda, which urges the legislature and the state to protect the funds currently in the Transportation Trust Fund, as well as those designated for the Fund. A healthy Transportation Trust Fund is essential to the productivity of Maryland's infrastructure, roads, bridges, highways, ports, and rails.

Maryland's transportation network is the lifeblood of our economy. Every day, Marylanders use the state's transportation network to get to and from work. The business community relies on an effective, efficient, and reliable transportation network to provide goods and services.

New transportation revenues resulting from the 2007 special session of the General Assembly, revenue reductions in the 2008 regular session, and \$1.1 billion (during the six year program period) in subsequent project cuts resulted in an estimated net \$265 million increase to the Transportation Trust Fund. This amount is grossly insufficient to sustain system preservation needs, much less to gain ground in addressing Maryland's \$40 billion backlog of transportation projects.

Since the preservation of existing transportation dollars is essential to meeting Maryland's Transportation needs, the Maryland Chamber ardently opposes any transfers from the Transportation Trust Fund. The Maryland Chamber also supports additional legislative protections, such as SB 894 to assure the integrity of the Transportation Trust Fund.

**For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests that the Committee give SB 894 a favorable report.**

*If questions please contact Allyson Black, [ablack@mdchamber.org](mailto:ablack@mdchamber.org)*