

PROTECTING LOCAL PLANNING FOR GROWTH

REVITALIZE • RESTORE • REINVEST

Local Oversight of New Toll Roads

HB102

Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement – Expansion

Why Is This Legislation Necessary?

Currently, there is a prohibition on State agencies constructing a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge without the consent of a majority of the affected counties; however, at this time, that prohibition only applies to counties on the Eastern Shore.

1. **Honoring local plans for growth:** Where and how a county grows – and does not grow – is decided locally through a participatory planning process. A new State toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge could undermine local planning by creating development pressure outside of areas planned for growth.
2. **All counties should have the right of consent:** New State toll roads, toll highways, and toll bridges can have dramatic long-term impacts to the fiscal and environmental health of a county, as well as to the quality of life enjoyed by residents. The City of Baltimore and all of Maryland's 23 counties should have the right to prohibit such a project if it is not in the best interest of its residents.

What Does This Legislation Do?

This legislation extends a prohibition on State agencies constructing a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge without the consent of a majority of the affected counties to all counties in the State.

What Will This Legislation Cost?

There is no fiscal impact associated with this legislation.