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.