



## **House Bill 1322**

### *Transportation Infrastructure Bank*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

Date: March 14, 2013

To: Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees

From: Andrea Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 1322. This bill would expand the financing options available to local governments for transportation projects by establishing a Transportation Infrastructure Bank.

As established by HB 1322, a Transportation Infrastructure Bank (TIB) would be a revolving loan fund which could be used to provide grants and loans to governmental or private entities for transportation projects, including highway, transit, freight rail facility, port facility, or airport facility. The TIB would be established as a fund within the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF).

In its recommendations, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Maryland Transportation Funding recommended assessing the feasibility of loaning State funds to localities and to private entities to facilitate transportation investment. Given current funding constraints, HB 1322 provides a reasonable approach and greater flexibility to meet transportation needs across the state. The creation of TIBs is not a new concept as 32 states currently operate infrastructure banks

MACo believes HB 1322 would provide another effective tool for funding transportation projects and would urge the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1322.