



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

**SENATE BILL 563 – TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY USER REVENUES –
DISTRIBUTION TO MUNICIPALITIES**

**SENATE BILL 564 – TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY USER REVENUES –
DISTRIBUTION TO MUNICIPALITIES**

BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 28, 2017

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports Senate Bills 563 and 564** which both attempt to restore critical funding to municipalities for road maintenance.

Highway User Revenues were first cut by 96% in 2009 when the State's economy took a significant downturn. These monies were used to backfill the State's budget and continue to be used in this fashion. Full funding has yet to be restored.

Counties and municipalities use these monies primarily for road maintenance and safety related road projects. The proposed bills each address sending more resources to the municipalities to return to a full funding level. This will allow local governments to address roadway maintenance and safety related projects more efficiently and effectively.

Municipalities are key to planning long-term transportation infrastructure projects that are critical to attracting talent and making a location desirable for commercial activity. Rather than rely on allotments on a year by year basis, a more permanent solution to this crucial funding shortfall is needed.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report** on Senate Bills 563 and 564.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

Gigi Godwin, President and CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800 Rockville, MD 20850
301-738-0015 www.mccc.md.com