



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

Letter to the Editor

It's "pothole season" in Maryland, and Maryland's cities and towns are once again struggling to keep up with basic road maintenance with a paltry amount of transportation funding we receive from the State. Last Thursday, municipal officials packed the House Environment and Transportation Committee room to support the passage of legislation to fully and permanently restore municipal Highway User Revenues to cities and towns this year.

For decades, going back to the Great Depression, the State of Maryland shared a small portion of gas taxes and vehicle registration fees with the incorporated cities and towns of Maryland. For most of this time, 30% of the revenues so generated were pledged in statute for local government use to maintain local roads.

In 2009, the state broke that long-established covenant and reduced the municipal share of this state-shared revenue by over 96% from over \$45 million to \$1.6 million to be shared among 156 incorporated cities and towns. Since state aid for cities and towns was first diverted for use for State transportation projects in 2009, municipal governments have lost over \$365 million.

Municipalities lack significant general fund revenue-raising authority beyond the property tax to offset these painful, continued cuts in state shared revenues that they have grown to rely upon for most of the last century. The Maryland Municipal League urges the members of the General Assembly to pass legislation to permanently restore municipal transportation funding in 2018.

Sincerely,

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2017-2018 MML President

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