



It should come as no surprise to anyone who lives in Montgomery County that the D.C. Metropolitan area suffers from the worst traffic congestion in the country. Without additional revenue, the Maryland Department of Transportation plans to halt work on any new projects such as the Purple Line and the dedicated express bus route along the Interstate 270 corridor. To exacerbate the problem, the State has a \$40 billion backlog of planned highway and transit maintenance projects that have not been adequately funded which creates serious economic and quality of life challenges for all Marylanders.

In an effort to address these issues, **House Bill 1515 -Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013** was introduced by the Governor last week.

The bill is being debated on the House of Delegates floor this week. In its current form, the bill would:

1. Impose additional motor fuel taxes on all fuels except aviation gasoline and turbine fuel based on the retail price of gasoline
2. Place restrictions on transfers from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) and use of TTF monies
3. Establish a Local and Regional Transportation Funding Task Force

Some quick facts about the proposed legislation:

- Maryland has not raised the state's 23.5-cents-per-gallon-gas tax in **20 years**, since **1992**
- It would raise \$830 million annually
- Would apply a 1% sales tax on motor fuel at the wholesale level on June 1, 2013
  - A 1% increase in the sales tax would add about 3.3 cents to the price of a gallon of gas
- The sales tax would increase to 2% on Dec. 1, 2014 and 3% on June 1, 2015
- Virginia recently passed a similar transportation revenue package (HB 2313)

I value your input on this legislation. If you have time, please take a moment and fill out a short survey [here](#) or share your thoughts with a reply email. Additionally, if you are interested in tracking the progress of **House Bill 1515**, click [here](#), to be directed to the newly updated Maryland General Assembly website.

Sincerely,