



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

MACo Highlights and 2016 Legislative Session Outlook

County Engineers Association of Maryland
2015 Fall Conference
Friday, September 25, 2015



Presentation Outline

- Interim Activities
 - Commissions and Task Forces
 - Administrative and Regulatory Matters
- Where We Are – Highlights From the Past Few Months
- Where We're Going – Looking Ahead to the Session



Numerous Commissions and Task Forces

- Commission to Study Body Cameras for Law Enforcement Officers
- Public Safety and Policing Workgroup
- Climate Change Commission – Mitigation and Adaption Workgroup
- Regulatory Reform Commission
- Maryland Economic Development and Business Climate Commission



Administrative and Regulatory Matters

- MDOT and SHA Taking Steps to Streamline Access permit Process
- Meeting with SHA to Discuss New HUR Reporting Requirements on October 6
- MDOT Requiring an Application to Receive County Share of \$25 Million Allocated in FY 2016 - <http://roads.maryland.gov/OC/FY16TransportationGrantApplicationForm.pdf>
- Working Closely With MDE to Streamline the Stormwater Retrofit Permit Requirements
- Working Closely with MDE on BAT Septic Requirements



Where We Are...

Highlights From the Past Few Months



Highlights From The Past Few Months

- Debate over Pension Funding
- Governor refuses to fund education with funds set aside for the Geographic Cost of Education Index
- Governor vetoes a \$2 million project for MD Hall for the Creative Arts
- Governor rolls back toll increases
- Governor cancels Red Line and scales back funding for the Purple Line - reallocates funds to additional State road and bridge projects



Highlights From The Past Few Months

- Governor closes Baltimore City Detention Center
- State closes FY 2015 with a fund balance of \$295 million
- State revenue estimates for FY 2016 and FY 2017 increase by more than \$212 million
- Governor cuts or eliminates fees – totaling \$51 million over 5 years



Why do these actions matter?

**They set the stage for the
upcoming session.**



Where We're Going

**Looking Ahead to the
Session**



Looking Ahead to the Session

- Local Transportation Funding
 - Governor is committed to restoring local HUR and will likely begin the first year of a phase-in this session
 - Local Transportation funding restoration will again be a MACo legislative priority
 - Political landscape will make this challenging
 - Will need all hands on deck!
- Fiscal 2017 Budget
 - Larger than expected fund balance and increased revenues usually makes for an easier budget year, but not this year
 - Competing priorities of Administration and General Assembly will make it difficult



Looking Ahead to the Session

- Tax reform efforts will likely put pressure on county budgets
 - Administration interested in reducing tax burden on businesses and citizens
 - Presiding Officers appointed Augustine Commission to examine business tax structure and make recommendations liking becoming the General Assembly tax reform plan
 - While approaches may be different, proposals will affect local revenues



Important Dates to Remember

- MACo Winter Conference – December 9 – 11, 2015

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