

'Been through this before'

Governor not surprised by Pascal's opposition

By KAREN HOSLER
Staff Writer

Gov. Marvin Mandel said yesterday that he had not expected County Executive

Robert A. Pascal to agree to his plan for Anne Arundel County to help finance the Baltimore subway at this time.

But, sooner or later Mandel figures Pascal or a successor will come around.

"I fully anticipated what Bob's position would be under the political climate and situation in the county," Mandel told reporters at his weekly press conference. "There is a feeling in Anne Arundel County" that the subway will not serve the local residents.

"I've been through this before," he continued. "When the state took over the port administration office we had the same situation. Anne Arundel County excluded itself and about two or three years later they came running right in."

The governor was referring to the state's takeover in 1956 of port operations in Baltimore, Baltimore County and later in Anne Arundel County.

Mandel said he would make no attempt to change Pascal's mind. "Any mindchanging will have to be done by the county executive or the county delegation."

Administration sources have said, however, that Mandel believes Anne Arundel County will be willing to contribute to the state's financially troubled Mass Transit Administration when it comes time to build light rail lines or some other system through the county.

The governor had asked Pascal to help out with the growing deficits in the MTA bus system. Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer and Baltimore County Executive Theodore G. Venetoulis were asked to help with the bus system for the next five years until the subway is completed and then to contribute directly to the cost of operating the subway which will run through their jurisdictions.

Mandel said yesterday Pascal's decision has not hurt his plan "in any way". His talks with Schaefer and Venetoulis are still going on.

The local contributions would be applied to the operating costs of the subway only.

State Secretary of Transportation Secretary Harry R. Hughes has warned that the state will come up \$350 million short in construction money for transportation projects over the next five years if some new source of money is not provided.

Several proposals are circulating in the legislature this year to raise that money through increases in motor vehicle registration fees and gasoline taxes, but Mandel declared yesterday that he has "no intention of advocating or supporting" any such increases this year.

The governor's statement leaves open the possibility that his position may change, however.

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By Eric Smith

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