

(f) *The Secretary shall be responsible for all planning activities of the Department of Transportation. The Secretary shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of a continuing, comprehensive and integrated transportation planning process, including the creation and promulgation of a State master plan for transportation (with the approval of the Governor) to guide program development and to foster efficient and economical transportation services throughout the State.*

(g) *The Secretary may, to the extent authorized by the State Budget, make grants in aid to any governmental transportation agency within the State of Maryland, whether the agency be a county agency, bi-county agency, multi-jurisdiction agency, municipal agency or other governmental agency.*

(h) *The Secretary of Transportation may, in his discretion, exercise or perform any power, duty, responsibility or function which any of the administrations, commissions, boards, or other agencies within the Department of Transportation are authorized to exercise or perform, except for those powers, duties, responsibilities and functions set forth in Article III, Section 40B, of the Maryland Constitution, and except for those powers, duties, responsibilities and functions which are vested by law in the Maryland Airport Zoning Board, the Airport Zoning Commission, the Board of Airport Zoning Appeals, the Board of Review of the Department of Transportation, and the Maryland Transportation Authority and which do not require by law the approval or action of the Secretary.*

(i) *Wherever it is provided by law that an appointment to a particular office within the Department of Transportation is to be made by the Secretary with the approval of the Governor, and the appointee is to serve at the pleasure of the Secretary, the Secretary shall not remove the appointee without first obtaining approval of the Governor.*

(j) *All staff assistants, administrators, and the heads of any other agencies within the Department of Transportation shall report directly to the Secretary.*

(k) *The Secretary may, consistent with the State Budget, enter into contracts with other agencies of the State to provide services for the Department of Transportation.*

(l) *The Secretary of Transportation shall be responsible for the budget of his office and for the budgets of the other boards, commissions, administrations, and agencies within the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation.*

(m) *The Secretary of Transportation may apply for and receive from the federal government, from any other person, corporation, association or other entity, any grants in aid or gifts to be used for transportation related purposes.*

(n) *The Secretary of Transportation shall have a seal for purposes of authentication of copies of records or papers in his office.*

(O) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL APPROVE ANY EXTENSIONS OR REVISIONS PROPOSED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 1971 OF ROUTES OF TRANSIT FACILITIES OF THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY IN MARYLAND NOT FINALLY APPROVED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES EXERCISING AUTHORITY OVER SUCH ROUTES PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1971.