

(3) study the current and future impact of traffic congestion in Southern Maryland, including traffic levels on roads including U.S. Route 301 and Maryland Routes 2/4, 4, 5, 210, 228, 231, 235, and 260;

(4) make recommendations on potential strategies, including roadway improvements and mass transit, including light rail transit to reduce traffic congestion on the roads specified in item (3) of this subsection and throughout the Southern Maryland region;

(5) study and make recommendations regarding the amount of funding necessary to implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland;

(6) assess the barriers to implementing roadway improvements and mass transit, including light rail service, in Southern Maryland and make recommendations to address those barriers; and

(7) make recommendations for potential funding mechanisms to implement traffic congestion reduction strategies in Southern Maryland.

(h) The Commission may:

(1) conduct site visits to view rail transportation systems in Maryland;

(2) request information from representatives of CSX Corporation relating to existing rail lines in Southern Maryland;

(3) include in its study those communities in Prince George's County that lie directly adjacent to St. Mary's and Charles counties and which might be impacted by the Commission's recommendations; ~~and~~

(4) include in its study those communities in Anne Arundel County that lie directly adjacent to Calvert County and which might be impacted by the Commission's recommendations; and

(5) hold public hearings to receive comments from interested parties.

(i) The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before November 1, 2006.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2005. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2007, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President: