

~~2001 exceed the department's January 2001 TTF revenue projections. The additional appropriations for the transit initiative may not exceed the unanticipated growth in fiscal 2001 revenues.~~

Further provided that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) operating budget appropriation includes \$18,199,000 appropriated in the Mass Transit Administration and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operating budgets for the administration's new transit initiative. The General Assembly supports this initiative. In addition to this appropriation, the General Assembly also supports fare initiatives that reduce Statewide transit fares for weekly and monthly passes. It is the intent of the General Assembly that MDOT advertise these fare reductions so that low wage workers are aware of the new benefits. To assist the General Assembly in evaluating the effect of the fare reduction, the department should measure the effect of the reduction of Statewide transit fares of weekly and monthly passes and report to the budget committees on the impact of this proposed fare reduction on ridership in fiscal 2002 by October 1, 2002. The report should also examine the effect of the transit reduction on low wage workers. In addition, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the administration keep all other transit fares at their current levels through fiscal 2006. However, the General Assembly is concerned about the funding sources identified in the initiative. To implement a prudently funded initiative, the General Assembly reduced the initiative's spending.