

12 of this Code] § 12; except, any notes issued to provide funds for administrative expenses of the commission shall be borne by each of the counties upon the basis of population, as set forth in [section] § 15 [of this Code].

(b) The notes [hereby] authorized BY THIS SECTION, and the interest payable thereon, [in the hands of the persons entitled thereto from time to time,] shall be and remain forever exempt from all state, county and municipal taxation [of every kind and nature whatsoever,] in the State of Maryland.

17.

Without in any manner limiting or restricting the general powers created by this subtitle, the district shall have power:

(h) To employ engineers, attorneys, [such] other professional experts and consultants and [such] general and clerical employees as [may be deemed] ARE necessary, and to prescribe their powers and duties and fix their compensation. The commission [shall] MAY not establish any merit, retirement or pension systems, [and] BUT the county [council] COUNCILS of Montgomery County and [the board of county commissioners of] Prince George's County [are hereby authorized] MAY, subject to appropriate agreements with the commission, [to] include employees of the district in the retirement or pension system of either county, as may be agreed upon;

18.

(b) [Such coordination] COORDINATION of planning shall be achieved, as follows:

(2) Cooperate with and participate in any continuous, comprehensive, transportation planning process cooperatively established by the [state roads commission of] Maryland STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION and the counties and cities embraced within the district to meet the planning standards [now or thereafter] prescribed by the Federal-Aid Highway Acts; [and]

(3) To the extent not inconsistent with or in duplication of the planning process specified in [subparagraph] PARAGRAPH (2) of this [paragraph (b)] SUBSECTION, cooperate with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Maryland State Planning Department, the National Capital Regional Planning Council, the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission and the Maryland State [Roads Commission] HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION. Such cooperation shall include the creation, as necessary, of technical committees composed of personnel concerned with planning and collection and analysis of data relative to decision-making in the transportation planning process[.]; AND

19.

(b) On or before the first day of December in each year, the commission shall make an annual report of the activities of the district for the preceding fiscal year to the county [council] COUNCILS and county [executive] EXECUTIVES of Montgomery County and [to the board of county commissioners of] Prince George's County. [Each