

~~(2) "BOARD" MEANS THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY.~~

~~(3) "SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY" MEANS:~~

~~(I) THE RIGHT OF WAY OWNED BY ST. MARY'S COUNTY SINCE JUNE 26, 1970 THAT EXTENDS APPROXIMATELY 28 MILES FROM HUGHESVILLE, MARYLAND TO PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND; AND~~

~~(II) ANY LAND OR RIGHT OF WAY ACQUIRED BY ST. MARY'S COUNTY UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

~~(B) THE BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY IS PRESERVED FOR FUTURE USE BY THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING A MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM THROUGH THE RIGHT OF WAY OR ANY PORTION OF THE RIGHT OF WAY.~~

~~(C) TO THE EXTENT THAT ANY LAND OR RIGHT OF WAY OWNED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN ST. MARY'S COUNTY INTERRUPTS OR INTERFERES WITH THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY OR WITH A POTENTIAL CONNECTING ROUTE BETWEEN BRANDYWINE, MARYLAND AND THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY, THE BOARD SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACQUIRE AT A REASONABLE PRICE A RIGHT OF WAY TO ELIMINATE THE INTERRUPTION OR INTERFERENCE.~~

~~(D) (1) THE BOARD MAY NOT ENCUMBER THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY IN ANY WAY THAT INTERFERES WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR THE LAND TO BE USED BY THE STATE WHEN NEEDED.~~

~~(2) TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY IS ENCUMBERED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1998, THE BOARD SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ELIMINATE ANY ENCUMBRANCE THAT INTERFERES WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR THE LAND TO BE USED BY THE STATE WHEN NEEDED.~~

SECTION 4. 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.

(a) The Maryland Department of Transportation shall examine and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of preserving or acquiring the rights-of-way for a future mass transit extension from Hughesville in Charles County to Lexington Park in St. Mary's County.

(b) The Department shall examine and make recommendations with regard to:

(1) Identifying the property that will be needed for any future extension;
and

(2) Estimating the cost for the State to purchase the necessary rights-of-way for the future extension;

(c) The Department shall solicit input for the study from:

(1) The St. Mary's County Commissioners;