

(1) review the study prepared by the Maryland Department of Transportation regarding mass transit in Southern Maryland under Chapter 594, Acts of 1998, the Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Strategy, the MD 5/U.S. 301 Transit Service Staging Plan, and any other relevant mass transit studies and plans;

(2) study the Southern Maryland rail transit alternatives, including a light rail transit system in the Maryland Route 5 corridor from White Plains to Branch Avenue;

(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;

(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]