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## 2016 MARYLAND SESSION PREVIEW FOR COG

2016-01-15

1. General Session Overview
  - a. Second year of term
  - b. Highly political with divided government
  - c. Record number of bills? Typical number is 2400-2600 per session. Already at 2100 in drafting.
  
2. Local Transportation (Highway User Revenue) Restoration
  - a. Top priority of both MACo and Maryland Municipal League
  - b. Traditionally received 30% of State's gas tax and motorist revenues for the roughly 83% of Maryland road miles maintained by local governments
  - c. Counties (excluding Baltimore City) have seen nearly 90% reduction since 2008 with total local government losses totaling \$2 billion
  - d. Governor Hogan including first of 8-year phase in restoration (19% increase to \$231 million) in FY 2017 budget Phased in restoration included in Governor's budget
  - e. Will be a political "football" in light of Governor's cancellation of Baltimore City Red Line
  
3. MS4 Issues
  - a. Successful partnership with COG on achieving needed reforms for stormwater restoration project permitting through Maryland Department of Environment
  - b. Maryland Phase 1 counties concerned over financial compliance plans
  
4. Bay Restoration Fund
  - a. Key state funding source for wastewater treatment plant upgrades, best available nitrogen removal technology (BAT) septic system upgrades, and now stormwater projects.
  - b. Protect fund, enhance local flexibility
  - c. 2017 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load Review

5. BAT Septic Systems

- a. Currently required in all areas of the state for new homes and full renovations
- b. Land use vs. environmental policy
- c. MACo pushing to allow local jurisdictions to create exceptions outside of Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Coastal Bays critical areas
- d. Review of BAT technology

6. Climate Change

- a. Mandatory Review of state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (HB 315/SB 278 of 2009)
- b. Initial Goal: 25% reduction of greenhouse emissions from 2006 levels by 2020
- c. "Gentlemen's agreement" on new goal of 40% reduction by 2030

7. Federal Issues

- a. MACo only occasionally involved at federal level but may be willing to partner on issues like MS4 Phase 2 rule or municipal tax exempt bonding

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