

**J00J00 Maryland Transportation Authority  
Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Public Safety, Transportation, and Environment Subcommittee  
Chair Michael Jackson  
February 6, 2025

House Appropriations Committee  
Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee  
Chair Courtney Watson  
February 5, 2025

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***DLS Budget Analysis Issues***

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**1. MDTA Financial Outlook (Page 22)**

**MDTA should comment on the timing of potential toll increases and how they would be implemented.**

**MDOT Response:**

A need for a toll increase has been forecasted since prior to the pandemic. Reductions in revenue caused by the pandemic, coupled with inflationary pressures on operating and capital expenses, pulled the toll increase into fiscal year 2029. The toll increase was pulled forward into fiscal year 2028 largely due to the reduction in toll revenue associated with the Key Bridge collapse.

The toll increase process must begin with sufficient time to accomplish the requirements in state law, Transportation Article 4-312, and to allow year end net revenue compared to annual debt service to meet or exceed a factor of 2-times as required by legal covenant (known as 2.0x Debt Service Coverage). Based the current forecast approved by the MDTA Board in November 2024, the toll setting process would likely begin in early calendar year 2027.

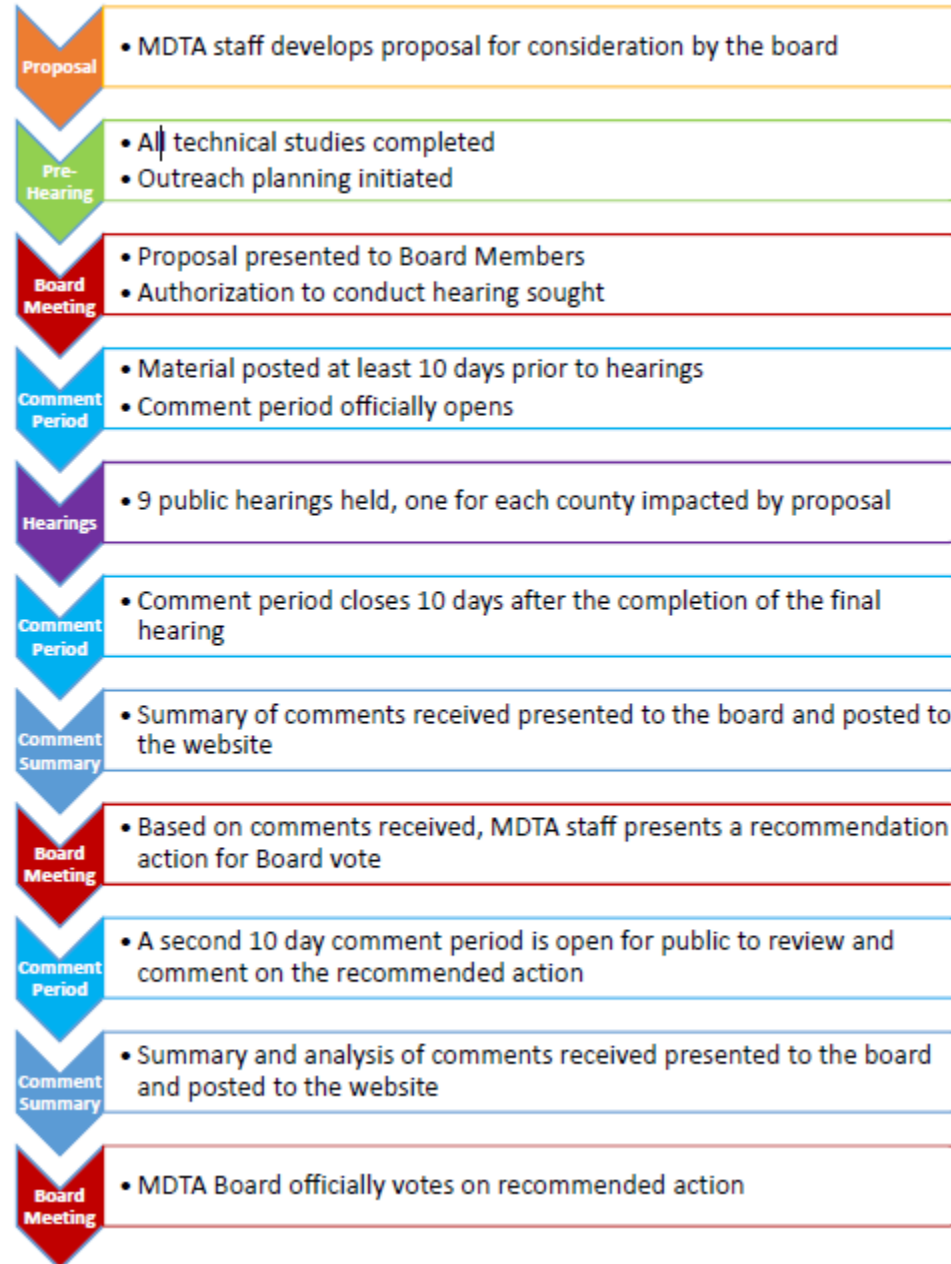
The toll setting process is illustrated in the flow chart on the following page.

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***DLS Budget Analysis Issues (continued)***

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Toll Setting Flowchart



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***DLS Budget Analysis Issues (continued)***

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**2. Impacts of the Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse (Page 25)**

**MDTA should discuss the anticipated timing of receipt of the funding and if any funds have been received to date.**

**MDOT Response:**

Anticipated funding sources include insurance proceeds, federal emergency relief quick release funds, federal emergency relief funds, toll revenues, and any recoveries from the M/V DALI's owners. On August 5, 2024, the MDTA received \$350 million from its property and business interruption insurance carrier. Insurance proceeds have funded \$25 million of debris removal. A \$10 million emergency relief quick release draw will occur this week. After the initial \$60 million federal emergency relief quick release are utilized, insurance proceeds will be utilized until exhausted, and then federal emergency relief funds will be utilized.

Within the MDTA's financial forecast, future emergency relief funds are assumed to be received one year after the reimbursement request. The twelve-month timeframe is a result of undefined timing by the Federal Highway Administration and federal funding uncertainties, including the timing of semiannual federal appropriation requests.

That said, the State of Maryland is continuing to prosecute its claims against the M/V DALI's owners and operators, the parties solely responsible for the destruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge and all resulting damages, costs, and losses. It is the State's intention that the DALI's owners and operators will be the primary source to fund the cost to rebuild the Bridge. Other sources of funding to rebuild the Bridge will be accessed if necessary, recognizing that full compensation should be obtained from the DALI's owners, operators, and insurers.

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***Operating Budget Recommended Actions***

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1. Nonbudgeted. (Page 27)

**MDOT Response:**

The Department concurs with the DLS recommendation.

***PAYGO Budget Recommended Actions***

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1. Nonbudgeted. (Page 27)

**MDOT Response:**

The Department concurs with the DLS recommendation.