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## GBC taking transportation funding push to airwaves

Baltimore Business Journal - by Scott Dance Staff

While the **Greater Baltimore Committee** lobbies state leaders to put more money toward transportation projects, it's also taking the message straight to the people, through television advertorials running in the next three weeks.

Ads explaining a need to add \$600 million to the state's transportation project and maintenance fund each year began running on **Comcast** cable Oct. 12. They will continue until Nov. 7 on eight cable networks.

The GBC is spending \$50,000 on the ads, officials said.

The committee is ramping up its message on the issue as the General Assembly prepares to convene in a special session starting Oct. 29. GBC CEO Donald Fry has said he expects transportation funding to be tackled during the session, along with the state's \$1.7 billion deficit.

The state's Transportation Trust Fund, separate from general funds used for everyday state operations, needs an infusion of \$600 million a year to address a \$40 billion backlog of unfunded highway and transit projects, Fry has argued.

"Transportation funding may be the biggest economic growth challenge facing Maryland in the next decade and it must be a top priority in the State House," Fry said in a statement.

"Lawmakers must not allow this critically important issue to get lost amid the scramble to close the state's operating deficit."

The 30-second ads point state residents to a GBC Web site, **[www.keepmarylandmoving.com](http://www.keepmarylandmoving.com)**, which has information about the Transportation Trust Fund and the transportation funding issue and helps them contact their legislators.