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## Increase In State Gasoline Tax Proposed

WBAL Radio as reported by John Patti

The **Greater Baltimore Committee** is proposing a ten-cent increase in the state gasoline tax.

Currently the gas tax in Maryland is 23-1/2 cents which ranks the state 26th in the country. Adding 10 cents would take the state gas tax to 33-1/2 cents per gallon, which GBC President Donald Fry says is still less than many metropolitan areas.

Fry says the state's vehicle titling tax should increase by 1% as well.

The **Greater Baltimore Committee** says increases are needed to generate \$600 million dollars in additional revenue to the state's Transportation Trust Fund. GBC leaders say that is the minimum annual increase that is needed for the state to be able to provide adequate funding to begin addressing a more than \$40 Billion backlog of highway, transit, port and airport projects currently planned but not yet funded for construction.

Fry says the governor's plan to close the state's 1.7 Billion dollar deficit only includes a \$400 million dollar increase in the state Transportation Trust Fund which is a dedicated fund for use only on transportation and highway projects.

Fry says given Maryland's projection for growth in the next 25 years, funding improvement to its transportation infrastructure is the state's top economic development challenge.

He urges Governor Martin O'Malley to include the proposed increase in his next legislative package.