

## Baltimore business community backs gas tax to pay for transportation

Baltimore's business community has lined up behind an increase in the Maryland gas tax to support transportation funding.

In an announcement Friday, the Greater Baltimore Committee called for a 10-cent increase in the gas tax to 33.5 cents per gallon as a main component of a \$600 million increase in revenue for the state's

### Transportation Trust Fund.

"The cupboards are bare; there isn't any money in the in the Transportation Trust Fund," said GBC president and CEO Donald Fry.

Democratic Gov. Martin O'Malley's budget plan calls for a \$400 million increase in trust fund revenues, but Fry said that's "not enough."

The trust fund receives revenues from the gas tax, vehicle registration and title fees, and almost one-fourth of corporate income taxes, as well as federal grants and bonds.

The GBC plan calls for modifying some fund revenues to automatically increase with the state's index of construction. - Karl B. Hille

