

SENATE BILL 623

R2
HB 1404/10 – ENV

11r0480

By: **Senators Madaleno and Glassman**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2011
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Transportation – Transit Review and Evaluation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to review
4 and evaluate transit priority treatments, best practices, and certain transit
5 thresholds, and to identify certain priority treatment corridors; requiring the
6 Secretary of Transportation to submit a certain report to the General Assembly
7 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and
8 generally relating to a transit study by the Maryland Department of
9 Transportation.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has established a goal of increasing transit
12 ridership by ten percent annually; and

13 WHEREAS, Significant expansions to existing transit infrastructure, such as
14 the Red Line in Baltimore City and the Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway in
15 Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, are still years away from completion; and

16 WHEREAS, The most recent economic downturn has strained the resources of
17 the Transportation Trust Fund, creating greater need to use existing transportation
18 infrastructure at the highest and best use; and

19 WHEREAS, The Transportation Planning Board of the Metropolitan
20 Washington Council of Governments has demonstrated the benefits of establishing a
21 network of prioritized transit corridors throughout the metropolitan Washington
22 region; and

23 WHEREAS, Increasing the efficiency of public transportation benefits both the
24 users and the entire region by reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions;
25 now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That:

3 (a) The Maryland Department of Transportation shall:

4 (1) (i) Review and evaluate the current methodology used by the
5 State Highway Administration to design and implement priority treatments for
6 transit uses, including traffic signal prioritization, use of shoulders for transit
7 vehicles, bus-only lanes, shared bus and bicycle lanes, and queue jumps; and

8 (ii) To the extent practical, in conducting the review and
9 evaluation under item (i) of this paragraph, consider previous studies or reports
10 conducted by the American Public Transportation Association, the National Transit
11 Institute, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Washington Council
12 of Governments, the Maryland Transit Administration, and the Washington
13 Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;

14 (2) Conduct a review of best practices for transit priority treatments
15 across the country and in select cities outside the United States with successful transit
16 priority applications;

17 (3) Identify, for both current and forecasted travel demands, transit
18 throughput thresholds at which different levels of transit priority treatments are
19 warranted; and

20 (4) Identify transit corridors that would be appropriate candidates for
21 the implementation of transit priority treatments.

22 (b) On or before December 15, 2012, the Secretary of Transportation shall
23 submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
24 Government Article, that includes the studies and analyses required under subsection
25 (a) of this section.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 3 months and, at
28 the end of December 31, 2012, with no further action required by the General
29 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.