

# SENATE BILL 623

R2  
HB 1404/10 – ENV

11r0480

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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 25, 2011

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 Maryland Department of Transportation to make certain recommendations  
7 concerning competitive grant funding for transit projects and the use of value  
8 capture opportunities to help finance certain capital costs; requiring the  
9 Secretary of Transportation to submit a certain report to the General Assembly  
10 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
11 generally relating to a transit study by the Maryland Department of  
12 Transportation.

13 Preamble

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

16 WHEREAS, Significant expansions to existing transit infrastructure, such as  
17 the Red Line in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and the Purple Line and  
18 Corridor Cities Transitway in Prince George's and Montgomery counties, are still  
19 years away from completion; and

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

4 WHEREAS, The Transportation Planning Board of the Metropolitan  
5 Washington Council of Governments has demonstrated the benefits of establishing a  
6 network of prioritized transit corridors throughout the metropolitan Washington  
7 region; and

8 WHEREAS, Increasing the efficiency of public transportation benefits both the  
9 users and the entire region by reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions;  
10 now, therefore,

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

13 (a) The Maryland Department of Transportation shall:

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

18 (ii) To the extent practical, in conducting the review and  
19 evaluation under item (i) of this paragraph, consider previous studies or reports  
20 conducted by the American Public Transportation Association, the National Transit  
21 Institute, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Washington Council  
22 of Governments, the Maryland Transit Administration, and the Washington  
23 Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;

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

27 (3) Identify, for both current and forecasted travel demands, transit  
28 throughput thresholds at which different levels of transit priority treatments are  
29 warranted; ~~and~~

30 (4) Identify transit corridors that would be appropriate candidates for  
31 the implementation of transit priority treatments;

32 (5) Recommend whether to establish competitive grant funding for  
33 transit projects, including whether to establish criteria that consider the extent to  
34 which local governments are:

35 (i) attempting to improve transit efficiency through land use  
36 decisions; and

1                   (ii) attempting to support transit-oriented development and  
2 other transit-related projects through impact fee policies, special taxing districts, and  
3 other local measures; and

4                   (6) Examine and make recommendations concerning whether and to  
5 what extent value capture opportunities may be used to help finance the capital costs  
6 of constructing light rail for the Red Line in Baltimore City and Baltimore County and  
7 for the Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway in Prince George's and  
8 Montgomery counties and barriers that may exist that prevent the Department from  
9 using those opportunities.

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

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.