

Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Delegate Michael A. Jackson
Appropriations Committee

Monday, January 21, 2020

Support for HB 205, Relating to Transit Funding

Hello, my name is Justin Walker. I grew up and lived in Southern Maryland for 18 years before moving to Towson to attend college. My parents still live in my childhood home in Cheltenham. My family and I love southern Maryland; my parents have lived there for over two decades and have no plans to leave. One of the most significant quality of life problems we've experienced is transportation. Long commutes to D.C. use to take away family time, shopping and entertainment that is mere miles away is inaccessible during rush hour; worst of all, we have lost multiple friends and neighbors in crashes down the dangerous Route 5 and 210.

Funding the light rail project from Branch Avenue Metro Station to Waldorf will help to remedy some of these problems. The area is not currently served by any meaningful transit, making the corridor completely auto-dependent. Getting cars off the road and giving residents other transportation options is long overdue. The most important problem that light rail would solve for my family is allowing us to stay in Southern Maryland. As my parents age, it is becoming more dangerous for them to drive. Having access to transit will enable them to remain in their home, keep their freedom, and not be a hazard to themselves and others while behind the wheel.

I love Southern Maryland, and as a lifelong resident know the problems that traffic and auto-dependency create for residents. The crippling traffic has hurt residents and held back economic development for long enough. Please support funding for this project that is vital for the future of Southern Maryland, my home.