

Good afternoon,

I am testifying that I approve of a bill to push forward with the Southern Maryland Rapid Transport. Southern Maryland has one of the worse commutes in the country. It greatly affects our quality of life, and we constantly feel like the state government does not care, and gives priority only to Montgomery, Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties. Our roads have potholes, we are commuting an average of 2 -4 hours a day for 30 miles and we have no alternatives. It is unbelievable that the state of Virginia has managed to not only stretch the WMATA system down into Reston which is 20 miles from the center of the DC (in comparison to the 11 miles to Branch Ave station), they also have the Virginia Railway Express which reaches down 60 miles to Spotsylvania.

I have a group of 187 followers who have banded together on Facebook, pushing for commuter rail, or ANY alternative to our current horrible situation. We need rapid transit, whether that be a bus or preferably rail. We do not want to hear about how expensive it is, we are the tax payers, we deserve to gain from our own taxes. Public transportation is not supposed to be profitable in a monetary sense, it is profitably in the mental and psychical health of the tax payers.

Please listen, pay attention to your constituents, we need SMRT.

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