



February 4, 2020

House Bill 368

Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

House Appropriations Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

The Anne Arundel County Administration **SUPPORTS** House Bill 368 - Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act). This Bill would mandate an ongoing appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund for the operation and administration of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

The MTA's Capital Needs Inventory, completed in July 2019, identified a \$2 billion funding shortfall over the next decade. This money is critical to keeping transit systems running smoothly, safely, and in compliance with regulatory requirements. As of the date of the Inventory, \$1.5 billion was required to bring the MTA's transit systems back into a state of good repair. That amount does not take into account projects to increase capacity or reduce transit times. As a result, Maryland's transit systems, which include buses, light rail vehicles, and subway trains, break down far more often than peer agencies in other states.

The 2017 American Community Survey identified Central Maryland and the Washington Metropolitan Area as having the seventh and second worst commute times, respectively, in the entire country. Far too many Marylanders are wasting their lives stuck in traffic due to a lack of reliable, rapid public transit. Unreliable public transit causes Marylanders to be late to work, appointments, and childcare and family obligations. As Maryland's population continues to grow, investing in the maintenance and expansion of the MTA systems is critical to attracting and retaining families, employees, and national and local businesses in Maryland, as well as reducing traffic congestion and commute times.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 368.