



Transportation
Alliance

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SIERRA CLUB
MARYLAND CHAPTER

JOTF **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
TASK FORCE
Advocating better skills, jobs, and incomes

February 27, 2020

**Testimony on HB 1159 –
Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan and Commission - Alterations –
Environment & Transportation**

Position: Favorable

The undersigned organizations support HB 1159. HB 1159 will continue the work of the Regional Transit Plan by requiring the MTA to produce more detailed corridor-level transit studies, as well as requiring progress reports and open meetings so the public can assess how the plan is being implemented.

In October 2020, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) will publish a new Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan, which will be a 25-year plan for public transportation in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford County, and Howard County. The Regional Transit Plan has been in development over the last year in consultation with the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan Commission and through public involvement activities. The plan is a key opportunity for the region to set a course for how it can improve and expand transportation options for its residents and businesses.

Since the cancellation of the Red Line, Greater Baltimore has lacked a clearly articulated vision for public transportation in the region and this lack of vision has hampered progress on identifying and moving forward with specific improvements or projects. This has left the region's residents with a status quo that is unacceptable. The status quo leaves too many people disconnected from jobs and opportunities. The status quo leaves too many riders without fast, frequent and reliable service. And the status quo leaves many residents with no other option except driving which increases vehicle miles traveled, exacerbating congestion issues, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

HB 1159 will help to ensure that the MTA and local governments proactively work toward implementing the Regional Transit Plan, as well as provide accountability and oversight to the public and General Assembly.

We encourage a favorable report.

Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Get Maryland Moving
Job Opportunities Task Force
Maryland Sierra Club