



**Transportation
Alliance**



Bikemore

March 6, 2020

**Testimony on HB 1492 –
Vehicle Laws – Bus Lane Monitoring Cameras - Authorization
Environment & Transportation**

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and Bikemore support HB 1492.

In June 2017, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) launched BaltimoreLink, a comprehensive redesign of its bus system serving Greater Baltimore. As part of that initiative, MTA partnered with Baltimore City to establish dedicated bus lanes in and around downtown Baltimore. MTA and Baltimore City also partnered on and won a federal grant for the North Avenue Rising project which will include adding more dedicated bus lanes.

Bus lanes can be an effective tool to move people more efficiently through our most crowded and economically productive corridors. Public education and enforcement are critical to the effectiveness of dedicated bus lanes. But bus riders regularly report that lanes are blocked by parked or standing cars and trucks. At the Transportation Alliance we recruited volunteers and conducted observations of bus lanes in fall 2018. During our observations 25% of the time a car or truck was parked in any given block of a bus lane. Buses are forced to merge into general travel lanes, causing delays and disrupting schedules.

We will not fully realize the benefits of the dedicated bus lanes until we effectively and consistently enforce them. HB 1492 continues to build on the MTA-City partnership by allowing the City to do just that.

We encourage a favorable report.