

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of MD District 40 and rely on public transportation. I am **testifying in support of House Bill 1204**.



House Bill 1204 establishes a state-wide transportation equity analysis development, maintenance, review, and enforcement framework to ensure access to transportation is statutorily guaranteed for individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, English proficiency, ability status, and gender orientation.

In response to record low ridership in recent months, the Maryland Transit Administration recently aimed to eliminate 25 Baltimore bus lines that would affect mostly Black neighborhoods. Even though the MTA backed off of its plans, they should never have been able to make those budget cut decisions without an analysis for how much it would disproportionately impact Black workers in Baltimore, and across the state of Maryland trying to get to their jobs.

When I moved recently, as someone who relies on public transit, accessibility to transit hubs/routes was the primary criteria as I assessed different neighborhoods. To be able to reach various parts of the city easily without a car, I decided that my only option was to live in a central spot in Mt. Vernon. I was extremely lucky to have this flexibility – and I know that most folks do not have the luxury to uproot themselves/their families to live where public transit is convenient. In my old neighborhood on the east side of Baltimore, I used to wait with groups of students for the bus during the morning school rush hour...and then get passed by full buses, or have to wait for long periods of time before seeing a bus. Those left behind by our transit system are those who can least afford delays (either to school, to work, to family). All Baltimore (and Maryland!) residents should have the ability to move freely and safely around our city using public transit, and HB 1204 is a necessary first step in that direction.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of House Bill 1204**. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Rosenthal

810 Cathedral St, Baltimore MD 21201

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore