



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1204**  
**EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION SECTOR – GUIDELINES AND ANALYSES**  
**(TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ANALYSES AND ASSURANCES ACT OF 2021)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Ruth

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1204 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Transportation is a big issue in Maryland. With the worst public transportation system in the nation (highest breakdowns and lack of on-time service), we have prioritized cars over public transportation time and again. We have canceled the Red Line, which harms our biggest city from a transportation and jobs standpoint. We continue to invest in highways with tolls, while many residents can't afford cars, or tolls.

This bill will require -

- Equity as a primary goal in the Maryland Transportation Plan
- MDOT to collect and analyze data on racial disparities and impact on persons with disabilities in the annual Attainment Report
- Adding a representative from the Maryland State Conference NAACP to the Attainment Advisory Committee
- Creation of a Commission on Transportation Equity as an independent body responsible for developing policies, guidelines, assurances, and performance measures to ensure an equitable transportation system
- The Commission will include representatives of the Maryland State Conference NAACP, Disability Rights Maryland, and CASA
- Transit equity analyses, cost benefit analysis, and outreach to affected communities before public hearings on any major service change; Cross-modal analysis
- Increased transparency with annual reporting and service change analysis reporting.

Our members believe that we need to re-commit to equity in transportation planning. We need to stop leaving residents behind when making decisions, and also start to plan for how our biggest city can become a transportation hub.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.