



NAACP
Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

Delegate Sheila Ruth
311 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 9, 2021

Re: Favorable Endorsement of *Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021*

Dear Delegate Ruth,

I am writing to express the NAACP Maryland State Conference's (NAACP MSC) endorsement of HB1204, the *Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act*. This act is instrumental to ensuring equity -- especially racial equity and equity for disabled persons -- is a key component in the creation and evaluation of transportation policies. We recognize the need for equity to be a central requirement in these policies to better address systemic issues in the transportation sector, and more fully understand the impacts and implications that proposed policies would have on different populations.

Maryland has had a long history of racist transit and housing policies, so the prioritization of equity moving forward will be crucial to addressing and overcoming the long-term impacts of these policies. An important aspect of this bill is the creation of the *Commission on Transportation Equity* to be an independent evaluator of Maryland Department of Transportation policies and would be composed of key equity stakeholders, including a representative from the NAACP MSC. This Commission will also be influential in consulting with communities affected, soliciting greater input from the public, and improving transparency and accountability throughout the process of crafting and analyzing transit policies. Equitable and accessible public transit is crucial for connecting people to good employment, affordable housing, healthcare, quality education, healthy food, entertainment and other services and opportunities that sustain and enrich Marylander's lives. Therefore, we believe HB1204 is an important step forward in the fight for equity by ensuring that all Marylanders are equitably benefited by transportation policies.

Thank you for introducing this important bill to the Maryland General Assembly, and we are pleased to endorse the *Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021*.

Respectfully,

Willie Flowers
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FD/SRH