

March 9, 2021

Statement on House Bill 1204  
Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021  
(Transportation Equity Act)  
House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Support

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of 1200 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly urge you to support House Bill 1204 to further the cause of equity in access to transportation for all Marylanders.

Maryland has a shamefully long history of racist transportation policies, from highways built through and dividing Black communities to the cancelation of the Red Line route, urgently needed access to jobs for residents in low-income, redlined communities in Baltimore and regional economy-transforming, transit-oriented-development (TOD).

Transportation equity is also important for people with disabilities. Because many people with disabilities do not have the option to drive cars, lack of access to other modes of transportation disproportionately harms them. Without access to transportation, people with disabilities continue to be alienated from the economic mainstream. People with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty in part due to difficulty accessing jobs, education and medical care. Because many individuals with disabilities have increased health care needs, isolation can have a profound impact on quality of life, health, and safety.

Ultimately, there is a need for greater transparency, accountability and community input. Equity should not be an afterthought or a box to check. Real people's lives are impacted by transportation. All Marylanders, regardless of race, income, zip code, or disability, should have an equal right to the benefits of a well-planned transportation system.

We urge you to give House Bill 1204 a favorable report.