

Testimony in Support - HB1204 - Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses
(Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021)

Hearing Date: March 11, 2021

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Sheila Ruth

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Submitting: Liz Feighner, District 13

Position: Favorable

As a Maryland resident in District 13, I am writing to urge you to support **House Bill 1204**, sponsored by Delegate Sheila Ruth, and I urge the House Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

I am completely appalled by Maryland's shamefully long history of racist transportation policies, from highways built through and dividing Black communities to the cancellation of the Red Line route. It is crucial to have equity in transportation policies which will play a key role in dismantling systemic racism.

The Transportation Equity Act requires:

- 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 transit monitor and evaluator;
- MDOT MTA to conduct transit equity analyses, cost benefit analyses, and outreach to affected communities before public hearings on any major service change;
- MDOT MTA to perform cross-modal equity analysis and planning;
- Increased transparency with annual reporting and service change analysis reporting.

Equity should be at the forefront of any policy and we need to right the wrongs of past racist policies. 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.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB 1204 and urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.

Liz Feighner
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District 13