



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mldlatinocaucus.org

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO, CHAIR
JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK, VICE-CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, TREASURER
JESSE T. PIPPY, SECRETARY
CESIAH FUENTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMBERS

ALFRED CARR
ALONZO WASHINGTON
ANNE HEALEY
ARIANA B. KELLY
BEN BARNES
BENJAMIN KRAMER
BONNIE CULLISON
BROOKE LIERMAN
CAROL L. KRIMM
CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD
CHERYL KAGAN
CRAIG ZUCKER
DAVID MOON
DIANA FENNEL
EMILY SHETTY
EREK BARRON
ERIC LUEDTKE
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH
GUY GUZZONE
HEATHER BAGNALL
J. SANDY BARTLETT
JAMES ROSAPEPE
JARED SOLOMON
JAZZ LEWIS
JEFF WALDSTREICHER
JEN TERRASA
JESSICA FELDMARK
JHEANELLE WILKINS
JILL P. CARTER
JIM GILCHRIST
JULIAN IVEY
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
KEN KERR
LESLEY LOPEZ
LILY QI
LISA BELCASTRO
LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
MAGGIE MCINTOSH
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
MARC KORMAN
MARY A. LEHMAN
MARY WASHINGTON
MELISSA WELLS
MIKE ROGERS
NICOLE WILLIAMS
PAMELA BEIDLE
PAMELA QUEEN
REGINA T. BOYCE
ROBBYN LEWIS
SHANE PENDERGRASS
SHANEKA HENSON
SHEILA RUTH
SHELLY HETTLEMAN
STEPHANIE SMITH
SUSAN C. LEE
TERRI HILL
VAUGHN STEWART
WANIKA FISHER
WILL SMITH

TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: March 11, 2021

RE: HB1204 Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses (Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021)

The MLLC supports HB1204 Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses (Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021).

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1204.

Thousands of Marylanders rely on our public transportation system. However, most of these residents are people of color. Black American and Asian-American workers are [nearly four times](#) the rate of white workers to commute by public transit, and Latino workers are nearly three times the white rate. These disparities are even starker in metropolitan areas, such as Baltimore City, largely due to not having access to car. Riders of color are also more likely to have “long commutes,” a [one-way commute of sixty minutes](#) or longer.

Transit [inequities persist](#) in Maryland. It is even more disheartening that these injustices disproportionately impact our Black, brown, and low socioeconomic status residents. Without easy and efficient modes to work, school, and health care, disenfranchised populations face another obstacle in accessing opportunities for stability and success. Even [employers](#) in locations with poor public transit, acknowledge how difficult it is to attract and retain a workforce that does not own a car. It is essential to apply an equity lens on all transportation planning and development. As a result, our public transportation system will better serve all communities across the state.

HB1204 adds equity as a goal to the Maryland Transportation Plan, requires racial disparities performance indicators in the annual Attainment Report, creates a Commission on Transportation Equity, including community voices, and sets out guidelines for conducting disparate impact analysis prior to any major service changes. Accessibility and reliability of public transit should not be barriers for any population to achieve success.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB1204.