

Submitted by: Rev. Marlon B. Tilghman (Baltimore County, MD resident, Pastor, U.S. Marine Corps SSgt, retired commission '92), 1118 Marksworth Road, Gwynn Oak, Maryland 21207.

“Public transportation is like a magnifying glass that shows you civilization up close.”

Chris Gethard

Del. Kumar P. Barve and Environment and Transportation Committee,

I ask that you vote in favor of Bill HB1204 Transportation Equity Act. COVID-19 has exposed the inequities of health care, policing, and transportation for the marginalized and differently abled. And sadly, Maryland has a shamefully long history of racist transportation policies, from highways built through Black communities to the cancellation of Baltimore's Red Line route. The only way to correct these horrible policies is by passing the [Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021](#) sponsored by a progressive champion, Delegate Sheila Ruth and others. With your support, HB1204 takes a big step towards dismantling systemic racism in public transit by:

- Making equity a central goal for transportation planning in Maryland.
- Creating a Commission on Transportation Equity as an independent transit monitor and evaluator;
- Directing the Maryland Department of Transportation to collect and analyze data on racial disparities and impact on persons with disabilities; and
- Creating a state-level equity analysis process to ensure that transit changes don't create a disparate impact.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” –Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. I trust that you will lend your voice to HB1204 because it matters to so many who are transit dependent and need your lawmaking powers.

Sincerely,

Marlon Tilghman

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