



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### TRANSIT SERVICES DIVISION

Jessica Fitzwater  
County Executive

Roman Steichen, Director

#### House Bill 1125: Transit – Grant Funding for Local Service - Alterations

**DATE:** March 7, 2023  
**COMMITTEE:** House Appropriations Committee  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**FROM:** Roman Steichen, Director, Transit Services, Frederick County Government

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 1125: Transit – Grant Funding for Local Service - Alterations. As the Director of the Transit Services Division in Frederick County, I urge the committee to give HB 1125 a favorable report.

Our Division provides public transit, paratransit and commuter services/employer outreach information throughout Frederick County, MD serving medical, employment, education, and shopping centers and connecting communities throughout the county.

HB 1125 is a crucial bill that will place funding for the Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) on a more sustainable basis and provide protection from the continuing cost increases we face in providing community transportation. The passage of this bill would save the County approximately \$215,000 and provide additional stability for transportation funding.

State support for local transit is critical to ensure our goals of quality service, environmental protection, and equity are reached. As state funding has stagnated or decreased, our local matches for state and federal funding have taken on a greater and greater proportion of funding.

Indexing our funding to the rate of inflation is another key element of HB 1125. Our costs always increase on a year to year basis, but funding is often flat for many years at a time. We need the ability to match increased costs without having to compromise service reach, frequency, or quality.

About 45 percent of Americans have no access to public transit. Black households are three times as likely as white households to have no access to a vehicle. When transit is accessible only for some, there are negative consequences to a lack of access for all. Public transportation is a greener alternative. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, transportation makes up 29 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and 41 percent of these emissions come from cars. Maryland should join other states in making a sustained and sustainable reinvestment in our local transit.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1125. On behalf of Frederick County Government, I urge a favorable report.

Roman Steichen  
Director, Transit Services of Frederick County

