



March 22, 2024

**Bill: House Bill 950: Maryland Transit Administration- Locally Operated Transit Systems- Mandatory Funding**

**Position:** Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, I am writing in support of HB 950, which mandates an annual appropriation of at least \$80,533,314 to the Locally Operated Transit System (LOTS) for statewide program operations beginning in fiscal 2026 and for each fiscal year thereafter.

The locally operated transit systems, which includes Ride On in Montgomery County, is crucial for our residents. By ensuring the stability of funding, we can improve the quality, reliability, and reach of public transportation services, thereby making communities like Gaithersburg more accessible.

The specified appropriation to the LOTS is not merely a financial commitment; it is a clear demonstration of our collective dedication to promoting sustainable transportation and reducing traffic congestion. Moreover, it supports economic development by improving access to employment, education, and essential services.

For these reasons, I urge you to support HB 950.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 301-466-5350 or our government relations consultant, Sarah Peters, at [speters@hbstrategies.us](mailto:speters@hbstrategies.us). We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Jud Ashman, Mayor  
City of Gaithersburg

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