



**Transportation
Alliance**



Bikemore

April 2, 2024

**Testimony on SB 943 –
Better Bus Service Act of 2024 –
Environment and Transportation Committee**

Position: Favorable With Amendments

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and Bikemore support SB 943, which expands the ability of local jurisdictions to enforce dedicated bus lanes.

Dedicated bus lanes can be an effective tool to move people more efficiently through our most crowded and economically productive corridors. Public education and enforcement are critical to the effectiveness of dedicated bus lanes. But bus riders regularly report that lanes are blocked by parked or standing cars and trucks. These impediments seriously undermine the effectiveness of the lanes, worsen travel times for riders, and disrupt the transit system's on-time performance. However, better and more consistent enforcement should reduce incidents of cars or trucks stopped or standing in bus lanes, lower travel times for bus trips, improve reliability for scheduled bus arrivals, and move more people per hour through our busiest corridors.

Despite our overall support for the bill, we are requesting one amendment to remove language that would allow people to make "a brief stop" in a bus lane when dropping off or picking up passengers. While it's understandable that many of us when driving would like to be able to pull over for a quick drop-off/pick-up, we are concerned that such an exception is simply too big of a loophole and would essentially make the lanes unenforceable.

We encourage a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT report for Senate Bill 943 that removes the language in Section 21-1133 (b)(6) that exempts "A VEHICLE MAKING A BRIEF STOP FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP A PASSENGER".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.