



Written Testimony Presented to the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Hearing Date – March 27, 2025

House Bill 80 -- Land Use – Transit Oriented Development – Alterations

Position – Support

The Baltimore Regional Transit Commission (BRTC) previously submitted written testimony in favor of SB 190 and HB 80 as introduced (with amendments). HB 80 is now before the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, having passed the House. **This letter is submitted in support of HB 80, as amended by the House.**

The BRTC was created by the Maryland General Assembly to provide oversight and advocacy for the Baltimore regional transit system, which is operated by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). Our commission ensures that diverse stakeholder perspectives are represented in agency decisions, including representatives from local government, transportation, industry, business, transit riders, transit advocates, labor, and the Moore-Miller Administration.

Our focus extends beyond transit infrastructure to the broader economic opportunities that transit provides, promotes, and creates. HB 80 is intended to help leverage Maryland's investments in public transit by promoting Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) at or near locations where the State has invested or will invest in transit facilities and infrastructure. TOD capitalizes on the economic and social benefits of growth concentrated around public transit hubs.

The Moore-Miller Administration and the General Assembly have previously taken important steps to encourage TOD, including in the 2024 legislative session, but more can and should be done. HB 80 is set to facilitate TOD projects under certain specified conditions, demonstrating the State's continued commitment to TOD and its many benefits.

We are grateful to the Maryland Department of Transportation and the bill's sponsors for their collaborative approach in working closely with local governments to address earlier concerns. Their commitment to finding a balanced solution that respects local government prerogatives while advancing state-level transit development goals is commendable and appropriate. The recent amendments reflect a thoughtful dialogue that seeks to balance state interests in promoting TOD with local governments' traditional role in land use control.

The BRTC urges your support of HB 80 and the economic opportunities it will create for Maryland.
