A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses

FOR the purpose of requiring that equity be considered when certain State transportation plans, reports, and goals are developed; altering the membership of the advisory committee on State transportation goals, benchmarks, and indicators; establishing the Commission on Transportation Equity; requiring the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Maryland Transit Administration, to conduct certain analyses and consult with certain communities before announcing or proposing certain service changes; requiring the Administration to take certain actions to avoid or minimize certain disparate impacts or disproportionate burdens; requiring the Administration to compile a report on the impacts of a proposed service change after holding a public hearing on the proposed service change; and generally relating to equity in transportation.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 2–103.1(d), (h), and (j) and 7–101
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 2–103.1(g) and (i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 7–714 and 7–715
Annotated Code of Maryland
HOUSE BILL 141

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

2–103.1.

(d) (1) The Maryland Transportation Plan shall:

[(1)] (I) Except as otherwise provided, be revised every 5 years through
an inclusive public participation process;

[(2)] (II) Include a 20–year forecast of State transportation needs, based
on the financial resources anticipated to be available to the Department during that
20–year period;

[(3)] (III) Be expressed in terms of the State transportation goals and
measures; and

[(4)] (IV) Include a summary of the types of projects and programs that are
proposed to accomplish the State transportation goals and measures, using a multi–modal
approach when feasible.

(2) BEGINNING WITH THE 2045 MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION PLAN,
THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER WAYS TO ACHIEVE EQUITY IN THE
TRANSPORTATION SECTOR WHEN DEVELOPING THE STATE TRANSPORTATION
GOALS.

(g) Beginning with the year 2002 State Report on Transportation and continuing
thereafter, before the General Assembly considers the proposed Maryland Transportation
Plan and the proposed Consolidated Transportation Program, the Department shall submit
an annual report on the attainment of State transportation goals and benchmarks for the
approved and proposed Maryland Transportation Plan and the approved and proposed
Consolidated Transportation Program to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State
Government Article, to the General Assembly.

(h) (1) The report required under subsection (g) of this section shall include:

(i) The establishment of certain measurable performance indicators
or benchmarks, in priority funding areas at a minimum, designed to quantify the State
transportation goals and measures specified in the Maryland Transportation Plan and §
2–103.7 of this subtitle; and

(ii) The degree to which the projects and programs contained in the
approved Maryland Transportation Plan and Consolidated Transportation Program attain
those goals and benchmarks as measured by the performance indicators or benchmarks.

(2) The Department shall include in its report measurable long–term goals, and intermediate benchmarks of progress toward the attainment of the long–term goals, for the following measurable transportation indicators:

(i) An increase in the share of total person trips for each of transit, high occupancy auto, pedestrian, and bicycle modes of travel;

(ii) A decrease in indicators of traffic congestion as determined by the Department; and

(iii) Any other performance goals established by the Department for reducing automobile traffic and increasing the use of nonautomobile traffic.

(3) (i) Beginning with the 2023 attainment report on transportation system performance, the advisory committee advising the Department on state transportation goals, benchmarks, and indicators shall consult with the Commission on Transportation Equity to recommend measurable transportation indicators that can be evaluated for:

1. RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES; AND

2. IMPACTS ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

(ii) The Department shall evaluate the indicators under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph to identify any:

1. RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES; AND

2. IMPACTS ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

(4) The performance indicators or benchmarks described in this subsection shall acknowledge the difference between urban and rural transportation needs.

(i) The Smart Growth Subcabinet, established under Title 9, Subtitle 14 of the State Government Article, shall conduct an annual review of the State transportation goals, benchmarks, and indicators.

(j) An advisory committee shall be assembled to advise the Department on the State transportation goals, benchmarks, and indicators under subsection (h) of this section.
(2) Membership of the advisory committee shall include but is not limited
to the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) A representative of the Maryland business community;

(ii) A representative of the disabled citizens community;

(iii) A representative of rural interests;

(iv) A representative of an auto users group;

(v) A representative of a transit users group;

(vi) A representative of the goods movement industry;

(vii) A nationally recognized expert on transportation demand
management;

(viii) A nationally recognized expert on pedestrian and bicycle
transportation;

(ix) A nationally recognized expert on transportation performance
measurement;

(x) A representative of an environmental advocacy organization;

(xi) A representative from the Maryland Department of Planning;

(xii) A representative of the Maryland Association of Counties; [and]

(xiii) A representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

(XIV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND STATE
CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
COLORED PEOPLE; AND

(XV) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A TRANSPORTATION LABOR
ORGANIZATION, DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND STATE AND DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA AFL-CIO.

(3) The Governor shall appoint the chairman of the advisory committee.

(4) The advisory committee shall meet at least four times during the
process of developing the Maryland Transportation Plan to provide advice to the
Department on meeting the requirements of this subsection.
(5) The Department and the advisory committee shall consider the following:

(i) Transportation and population trends and their impact on the State’s transportation system and priority funding areas;

(ii) Past and present State funding devoted to the various transportation modes and demand management;

(iii) The full range of unmet transportation needs in priority funding areas;

(iv) The full range of transportation measures and facilities available, and their role, effectiveness, and cost effectiveness in providing travel choices and reducing congestion;

(v) A review of transportation performance indicators and their use in other states;

(vi) A review of the coordination of State transportation investments with local growth plans for priority funding areas;

(vii) The types of investments needed and their levels of funding for supporting the State transportation goals and measures established under § 2–103.7 of this subtitle;

(viii) The impact of transportation investment on:

1. The environment;

2. Environmental justice as defined in § 1–701 of the Environment Article;

3. Communities; [and]

4. Economic development; [and]

5. RACIAL EQUITY; AND

6. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY; AND

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Administration" means the Maryland Transit Administration.

(c) "Administrator" means the Maryland Transit Administrator.

(D) "Disparate impact" means a facially neutral policy or practice that disproportionately affects members of a group identified by race, color, or national origin, where the recipient's policy or practice lacks a substantial legitimate justification and where there exist one or more alternatives that would serve the same legitimate objectives but with less disproportionate effect on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

(E) "Disproportionate burden" means a facially neutral policy or practice that disproportionately affects low-income populations more than non-low-income populations and, on a finding of disproportionate burden, requires the recipient to evaluate alternatives and mitigate burdens where practicable.

[(d) (F)] "District" means:

(1) The Metropolitan Transit District, consisting of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, and other areas as designated by the Secretary after consultation and coordination with the affected jurisdiction and subject to the provisions of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Compact; and

(2) Any area in which railroad service is performed under contract with the Administration or in which railroad facilities are owned by the Administration.

[(e) (G)] "Excursion train" means any special event train sponsored or contracted for in connection with the promotion of a public event benefiting the State and its citizens.

[(f) (H)] "Light rail transit" means rail transit which is electrically powered and can operate in mixed traffic with automobiles.

[(g) (I)] "Private carrier" means any person that renders transit service within the District under an operating permit or license issued by an agency of this State exercising regulatory jurisdiction over transportation of passengers within this State and over persons engaged in that business.

[(h) (J)] "Proof of fare payment" means evidence of fare prepayment authorized by the Administration for the use of transit service.
“Railroad company” means any entity engaged in the providing of railroad service under this title.

“Railroad facility” means any facility used in providing railroad services, and includes any one or more or combination of:

(i) Switches, spurs, tracks, structures, terminals, yards, real property, and other facilities useful or designed for use in connection with the transportation of persons or goods by rail; and

(ii) All other appurtenances, including locomotives, cars, vehicles, and other instrumentalities of shipment or carriage, useful or designed for use in connection with the transportation of persons or goods by rail.

“Railroad facility” does not include any transit facility.

“Railroad service” means any service utilizing rail or railroad facilities performed by any common carrier operating under the jurisdiction of the State or federal government as a common carrier and includes any such service performed by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

“Transit facility” includes any one or more or combination of tracks, rights-of-way, bridges, tunnels, subways, rolling stock, stations, terminals, ports, parking areas, equipment, fixtures, buildings, structures, other real or personal property, and services incidental to or useful or designed for use in connection with the rendering of transit service by any means, including rail, bus, motor vehicle, or other mode of transportation, but does not include any railroad facility.

“Transit–oriented development” means a mix of private or public parking facilities, commercial and residential structures, and uses, improvements, and facilities customarily appurtenant to such facilities and uses, that:

(1) Is part of a deliberate development plan or strategy involving:

(i) Property that is adjacent to the passenger boarding and alighting location of a planned or existing transit station; or

(ii) Property, any part of which is located within one-half mile of the passenger boarding and alighting location of a planned or existing transit station;

(2) Is planned to maximize the use of transit, walking, and bicycling by residents and employees; and

(3) Is designated as a transit–oriented development by:

(i) The Secretary, after considering a recommendation of the Smart Growth Subcabinet established under § 9–1406 of the State Government Article; and
(ii) The local government or multicounty agency with land use and
planning responsibility for the relevant area.

[(n)] (P) (1) “Transit service” means the transportation of persons and their
packages and baggage and of newspapers, express, and mail in regular route, special, or
charter service by means of transit facilities between points within the District.

(2) “Transit service” does not include any:

(i) Vanpool operation; or

(ii) Railroad service.

[(o)] (Q) (1) “Transit station” means any facility, the primary function of
which relates to the boarding and alighting of passengers from transit vehicles.

(2) “Transit station” includes platforms, shelters, passenger waiting
facilities, parking areas, access roadways, and other real property used to facilitate
passenger access to transit service or railroad service.

[(p)] (R) “Transit vehicle” means a mobile device used in rendering transit
service.

7–714.

(A) In this section, “Commission” means the Commission on
Transportation Equity.

(B) There is a Commission on Transportation Equity.

(C) The Commission consists of the following members:

(1) The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary’s
designee, as an ex officio member;

(2) Three members appointed by the Governor;

(3) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate;

(4) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(5) One representative of a transportation labor
organization, designated by the Maryland State and District of
Columbia AFL–CIO; and
(6) The following members, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

(i) One representative of the Maryland State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;

(ii) One representative of Disability Rights Maryland;

(iii) One representative of CASA de Maryland;

(iv) One representative of the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition;

(v) Two high school students, at least one of whom must be a transit rider residing in Baltimore City; and

(vi) A representative of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

(D) (1) Each appointing official shall consider the expertise of the other members appointed to the Commission and attempt to make appointments that reflect a diversity of expertise.

(2) The Commission shall reflect the cultural, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State.

(E) (1) The Commission shall elect a chair and vice chair from among its members.

(2) The Commission:

(I) Shall hold regular quarterly meetings; and

(II) May convene a special meeting if necessary.

(F) (1) Nine members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(2) All actions of the Commission shall require the affirmative vote of at least nine members.
(G) A member of the Commission may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission, but is entitled to:

(1) A per diem rate as provided in the State budget for attending scheduled meetings of the Commission; and

(2) Reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(H) The Department shall provide staff for the Commission.

(I) The Commission shall:

(1) Work with the Department to develop policies and performance measures to ensure that the State transportation system is equitable;

(2) Advise the Department on how the transportation system in the State can address racial disparities in employment, education, environment, housing, and health;

(3) Advise the Administration on methodology for evaluating the correlation between transit and factors such as health, environmental justice, socioeconomic status, and disability status;

(4) Consider and recommend how to use the "Transportation Equity and Environmental Health in Baltimore City" study by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition as a source of transit equity, health, and pollutants convergence analysis and as an instrument leading to improved statewide transit equity;

(5) (I) Advise the Administration on the 3-year Title VI Implementation Program; and

(ii) In accordance with the Federal Transit Administration’s Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients, advise the Administration on developing:

1. A major service change policy;
2. A DISPARATE IMPACT POLICY; AND

3. A DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN POLICY;

(6) ADVISE THE ADMINISTRATION ON:

(I) TRANSIT EQUITY ANALYSIS POLICIES AND GUIDELINES, INCLUDING THRESHOLDS FOR WHEN A CHANGE TO SERVICE OR A REDUCTION OR CANCELLATION OF A CAPITAL PROJECT REQUIRES ANALYSIS; AND

(II) POLICIES AND GUIDELINES THAT INCLUDE METHODS FOR INTERMODAL ANALYSIS TO ENSURE THAT A CHANGE DOES NOT DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACT MODES WITH MAJORITY–MINORITY RIDERSHIP;

(7) ADVISE AND ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION WITH COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO MINORITY COMMUNITIES, LOW–INCOME COMMUNITIES, DISABLED RIDERS, AND RIDERS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY; AND

(8) (I) HOLD AT LEAST ONE TOWN HALL MEETING ANNUALLY TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES OF TRANSPORTATION EQUITY;

(ii) ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO TESTIFY AT TOWN HALL MEETINGS IN PERSON OR THROUGH ELECTRONIC MEANS; AND

(iii) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, HOLD TOWN HALL MEETINGS IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE STATE.

(J) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL PRODUCE AN ANNUAL REPORT THAT INCLUDES:

(I) ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION;

(II) THE DEPARTMENT’S PROGRESS ON ENSURING EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS;

(III) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE EQUITY; AND

(IV) AN ANALYSIS OF THE TESTIMONY RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC DURING ANY TOWN HALL MEETINGS HELD BY THE COMMISSION DURING THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR.
(2) The report shall be:

(i) Posted on the Department's website; and

(ii) Made available to the public on request.

(k) On or before October 1, 2023, and each October 1 thereafter, the Commission shall submit the annual report required under subsection (j) of this section to:

(1) The members of the Board of Public Works;

(2) The Attorney General;

(3) The Secretary of Transportation; and

(4) In accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article:

(i) The President of the Senate;

(ii) The Speaker of the House;

(iii) The Senate Finance Committee; and

(iv) The House Environment and Transportation Committee.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

7–715.

(A) Before announcing or proposing any service change that would constitute a major service change under the Federal Transit Administration's Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients, or any reduction or cancellation of a capital project exceeding the thresholds developed by the Administration in coordination with the Commission on Transportation Equity, the Department, in collaboration with the Administration, shall:
(1) Conduct a transit equity analysis in accordance with the Title VI requirements and guidelines for Federal Transit Administration recipients and the guidelines advised by the Commission on Transportation Equity to determine whether the change will create a disparate impact or a disproportionate burden;

(2) Perform a cost–benefit analysis, including an analysis of impacts on:

   (I) Economic development;
   (II) Employment;
   (III) Education; and
   (IV) Health; and

(3) Consult with members and leaders of affected communities, including through community outreach to:

   (I) Racial minority communities;
   (II) Low–income communities;
   (III) Disabled riders;
   (IV) Riders with limited English proficiency; and
   (V) Transit–reliant riders.

(B) (1) If, according to the guidelines advised by the Commission on Transportation Equity, a transit equity analysis reveals disparate impact or disproportionate burden, the Administration shall:

   (I) Develop alternatives that would meet the goals of the proposed service change; and

   (II) Conduct a transit equity analysis on the alternatives.

(2) If a disparate impact can be avoided through use of one of the alternatives analyzed, the Administration shall proceed with
THAT ALTERNATIVE AS THE PRIMARY PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE.

(3) IF THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD AVOID A DISPARATE IMPACT OR DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN, THE ADMINISTRATION:

   (I) MAY NOT IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE UNLESS A SUBSTANTIAL JUSTIFICATION EXISTS THAT NECESSITATES THE CHANGE; AND

   (II) SHALL IMPLEMENT THE ALTERNATIVE THAT CAUSES THE LEAST DISPARATE IMPACT OR DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN.

(C) BEFORE HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

   (I) PUBLISH THE TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ANALYSIS AND COST–BENEFIT ANALYSIS ON THE ADMINISTRATION’S WEBSITE; AND

   (II) PROVIDE A COPY TO THE COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION EQUITY.

(D) (1) AFTER COMPLETING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL Compile a report on the impacts of the proposed service change.

   (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

      (I) THE TRANSIT EQUITY ANALYSIS;

      (II) THE COST–BENEFIT ANALYSIS;

      (III) A COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT;

      (IV) ANY ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED; AND

      (V) IF APPLICABLE, THE FINAL ALTERNATIVE SELECTED.

(3) IF A DISPARATE IMPACT OR DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN EXISTS IN THE FINAL ALTERNATIVE SELECTED, THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A SUBSTANTIAL JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT.

(4) THE REPORT SHALL BE:
(I) Made available to the public on the Administration’s website, with a visible link from the primary information page relating to the proposed service change; and

(II) Distributed to:

1. The members of the Board of Public Works;
2. The Attorney General;
3. The Secretary of Transportation;
4. The Commission on Transportation Equity;
5. Any elected officials whose districts would be impacted by the proposed service change;
6. Any community leaders consulted during the community outreach process; and
7. In accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article:
   A. The President of the Senate;
   B. The Speaker of the House;
   C. The Senate Finance Committee; and
   D. The House Environment and Transportation Committee.

Section 3. And be it further enacted, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Section 4. And be it further enacted, That, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.