

May 27, 2022

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madam Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 1336 – *Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding Commission*.

This bill establishes an entirely new commission to make findings and recommendations as it relates to mass transit in the greater Baltimore region. Currently, the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) oversees transit in the greater Baltimore region. In addition to their responsibilities for running day-to-day operations, they have experts that oversee and implement multiple transit projects and studies in this exact area. These ongoing studies take into consideration multiple aspects from environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with every proposed course of action. For example, the Statewide Transit Plan will provide a 50-year vision of coordinated local, regional, and intercity transit across the State. The commission proposed in House Bill 1336 duplicates the work of the MDOT MTA and may contradict the State's goals for transit. Further, the bill does not contemplate or consider the commuter rail service that runs in both the Baltimore and Washington regions, as it only addresses the greater Baltimore region mass transit.

In order to advance transit in Maryland, it is critical that any studies or initiatives view transit from a lens of state connectivity. In addition to the Statewide Transit Plan, MDOT MTA is advancing the following studies and plans:

Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland
Transit Priority Initiatives
Transit Hub Initiatives
Capital Needs Inventory
Shared Mobility Work Plan
Cornerstone Plans
MARC Brunswick Line Study
Access to Opportunity Microtransit Pilot

House Bill 1336 undermines the General Assembly's original intent of streamlining all transportation agencies under the Maryland Department of Transportation. This bill would effectively remove the interdepartmental coordination and collaboration designed to look holistically at the State's transportation needs.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1336.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan Jr.
Governor