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BILL NO.: **HB 368**

TITLE: Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

SPONSOR: Delegate Lierman

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 4, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 368 - Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act). This bill would require the Governor to appropriate a specific amount of money for the operating and capital needs of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) for fiscal years 2023 through 2027 in addition to the money already appropriated for transit projects.

The MTA has identified in their 2019 Capital Needs Inventory that there is currently a \$2 billion dollar gap in the funding needed to maintain their transportation programs. This problem is compounded by deferred maintenance, which has been piling up over the years. The result is Maryland’s buses, light rail vehicles and subway trains have been breaking down. This legislation mandates that the budget appropriations to the MTA address the needs identified and get our transportation infrastructure back to a level that our residents deserve.

Thousands of Baltimore County residents rely on public transportation to make it to work on time, pick their children up from school, and get to doctor’s appointments. Public transportation is especially important to more vulnerable members of the community. A robust public transportation system also reduces the county’s carbon output and traffic congestion.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 368. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.