



February 3, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
The Honorable Michael Jackson, Vice-Chair
Members of the Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

**Re: Requesting a Favorable Report for HB368
(Transit Safety and Investment Act)**

Dear Committee Members,

Bikemore urges a favorable report on HB368, the Transit Safety and Investment Act, which sets a minimum capital funding level for the Maryland Transit Administration for FY2022-2027 and prohibits reductions to operating funding levels during the same time period.

The MTA transit system serves hundreds of thousands of Marylander workers and their employers. HB368 is necessary to ensure that the MTA system can be brought into a state of good repair as recommended by MTA's Capital Needs Inventory (CNI) report, released in the Summer of 2019.

A third of Baltimoreans overall lack access to a car, and the majority of residents living in formerly red-lined communities of color lack access to a car. Access to reliable transportation the most critical factor in social mobility, and transportation challenges are at the root cause of Baltimore's most visible issues including school attendance and success, crime, and employment.

Bikemore represents more than 5,000 engaged Baltimoreans as well as the hundreds of thousands of people who walk, ride and roll through Baltimore who don't regularly engage with our advocacy. Our constituency needs reliable and accessible transit that is in a state of good repair. We can't fail our city's most vulnerable any longer.

We urge the Appropriations Committee to take action to ensure Maryland's transit system is adequately funded by issuing a favorable report on HB 368.

Sincerely,

Jed Weeks
Policy Director