



Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Testimony to the House Appropriations Committee
HB 368: Transit Equity Act
Position: Favorable

February 04, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Room 121, HOB
Annapolis, MD 21401
cc: Members, Appropriations Committee

Honorable Chair McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

MCRC is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances financial justice and economic inclusion for Maryland consumers through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 8,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

MCRC is here in strong support of HB368. In July 2019, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) released its first Capital Needs Inventory (CNI) to assess the MTA's ongoing, unconstrained capital needs. As a result, CNI identified \$5.7 billion of capital needs over the next ten years, \$1.5 billion of which is an accumulated backlog of deferred maintenance. The Maryland Department of Transportation's FY 2020–2025 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) does not provide the MTA enough over the next six years to address the annual maintenance and repairs in the CNI. The result of the neglected maintenance is buses, light rail vehicles, subway trains and commuter trains that break down way more often than the MTA's peer agencies.

Through our work on economic rights, MCRC knows the critical role that affordable transportation plays in accessing jobs with family-sustaining wages, after-school activities, groceries, and other amenities. Transportation must be affordable, reliable, and safe.

As a mother, my teenage son must take a bus to attend Baltimore City College where he is a junior. He suffers chronic health issues and consequently can't stand for long periods of time. He has waited for 45 minutes to 60 minutes for his school bus. He isn't physically able to do so, nor should he have to. Instead, we often end up using Lyft while I am in Annapolis during session. This is costly for me but completely unaffordable for many families attending City College.

For all these reasons, we support HB368 and urge a favorable report.

Marceline White
Executive Director



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