

---

March 3, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
121 House Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information– House Bill 1367 – Transportation - Western Maryland MARC  
Rail Extension – Study**

Dear Chair McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1367 but offers the following information for the committee’s consideration.

House Bill 1367 requires the MDOT Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) study and report the feasibility of the expansion of Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail service to Western Maryland. The feasibility study, in conjunction with various stakeholders, is required to be completed by December 2021.

MARC is a 187-mile commuter rail system that provides service on three lines: the Penn Line (Washington, D.C. and Perryville, MD), the Brunswick Line (Washington, D.C. and Martinsburg, WV), and the Camden Line (Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, MD). Under MTA, MARC Train Service is operated under a contract with Amtrak (Penn Line) and CSX Transportation (Camden and Brunswick Lines).

House Bill 1367 mandates several in-depth aspects of a feasibility study including a review of existing conditions and needs, a cost-benefit analysis of all potential expansions, a 5 percent conceptual design of all potential expansions, a service planning analysis of all potential expansions, extensive stakeholder engagement, as well as traffic and travel demand modeling. The time constraints for a study of the scope and magnitude outlined in House Bill 1367 would be exceptionally difficult to meet. Additionally, the cost to complete the study is estimated to be greater than \$3.5 million over the course of two years.

Further, MDOT MTA cannot speak for CSX and the impact extending MARC service would have on their operations. As CSX collects and retains their own data, it is difficult for MDOT MTA to estimate any potential impacts House Bill 1367 would have on them at this time.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 1367.

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Page Two

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Myers  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Transit Administration  
410-767-0820

Jeff Tosi  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-841-2850