

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Mary Clapsaddle
Director, State Affairs

DATE: February 12, 2020

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine urges a favorable report on **SB 424**, 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 employees and their families that rely on MARC, commuter bus and Baltimore metro transit services to access essential destinations throughout Maryland. SB 424 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, and position the state to act upon its MTA Cornerstone growth plans.

The Transit Safety and Investment Act works in a similar manner to the 2018 Metro Transit Funding Act that provided dedicated capital funding for WMATA, by mandating a minimum annual funding appropriation. Specifically, this bill mandates no less than \$500 million be appropriated for MTA's identified "state of good repair" and enhancement needs for six years beginning from FY 2022 to FY 2027.

This \$500 million annual funding floor would increase MTA's capital funding by at least \$100 million or more per year compared to the CTP. In doing so, it meets the minimum \$462 million per year "state of good repair" funding requirements identified in the CNI, and provides an additional \$38 million for enhancement needs, such as advancing the B&P Tunnel, the Baltimore Penn Station redevelopment, or enhancing connectivity to job centers like Port Covington, Ft. Meade or Tradepoint Atlantic.

As the State's largest private employer, with more than 53,000 Marylanders in our employ, Johns Hopkins knows that adequate investments in our transportation system are critical to the economic competitiveness of our state and region. Our employees, students, patients, and visitors depend on it.

We urge the Budget and Taxation Committee to take action to ensure Maryland's transit system is adequately funded by issuing a **favorable report on SB 424**.

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Craig Zucker