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Transportation Alliance

February 12, 2020

Testimony on SB 424 – Transit Safety & Investment Act Budget & Taxation

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports SB 424.

In July 2019, MTA released its first ever Capital Needs Inventory (CNI) to assess the Administration's ongoing, unconstrained capital needs. The 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. According to the report, in order to provide safe, reliable transit services the Administration would need, on average, \$462 million per year in capital funding for state of good repair needs over the next ten years.

However, MDOT's FY 2020–2025 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) fails to provide enough funding. As the CNI itself states: "At current funding levels, MDOT MTA is unable to fully address the 10-year capital investment needs identified."

The CTP's proposed funding levels for MTA is insufficient to address its current capital needs and will exacerbate future capital needs. Infrastructure becomes more expensive to operate and maintain if maintenance is deferred.

SB 424 will remedy this by providing the MTA with a funding level sufficient to begin fully addressing critical state of good repair needs and partially address other needed enhancements as identified in the CNI.

We encourage a favorable report.

