



February 4, 2020

**Testimony on SB 424 -
Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

Position: Favorable

No Boundaries Coalition supports SB 424.

In July 2019, pursuant to §7-309 of the Code of Maryland, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) released its first ever Capital Needs Inventory (CNI) to assess the MTA'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. 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. In fact, it will add to the backlog.

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. This leads to poor service which leads to drops in ridership, and a negative spiral.

The No Boundaries Coalition (the "Coalition") is a resident-led advocacy organization building a unified and empowered Central West Baltimore (CWB) across the boundaries of race, class and neighborhoods. The No Boundaries Coalition is the largest grassroots organization in West Baltimore, with over 200 individual members. The Coalition mobilizes residents from seven different neighborhoods in 21217 to address racial and economic inequality in Baltimore City and improve the quality of life for Central West Baltimore residents. Currently, the Coalition is advocating for increased police accountability, safer streets, more opportunities for young people, increased voter turnout and more healthy foods in our neighborhoods.

The Transit Safety & Investment Act will mandate that MTA's capital budget be at a level that allows it to address all of the needs identified and get the system back into a state of good repair so that it can operate safely and reliably.

We encourage a favorable report.

In the service of the community,

Ashiah Parker

Ashiah S. Parker, Executive Director

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