

Nicholas C Orrick of Riverdale, Maryland

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

Position: Favorable

I support SB 424.

Lately, I have found myself going to Baltimore more often, usually to participate in meetings. I quickly learned that the MARC train is a convenient and economical way to get from Riverdale to Baltimore. This bill would help make MARC service more safe and reliable. On the MARC train, I can spend the time studying documents or answering email. If I drive, all the travel time is consumed with driving, and then when I arrive, I have to deal with the hassle and expense of parking.

Once I arrive in Baltimore, there is the problem of getting from the rail station to the meeting site. This is where the Baltimore bus system, another function of MTA comes into play -- or doesn't. If I cannot depend on the bus, then it is more expeditious to just walk, even for a couple of miles.

In the next decade, if we are to meet our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by sixty percent, then there needs to be a large transition from individuals driving in automobiles to people using public transportation.

As public transit becomes more attractive, more people will ride, and frequency of service can increase, attracting more patrons. At the same time, congestion and maintenance issues on our highways will ease, attracting still more patrons and thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution.

For many people, owning and operating an automobile is too much of a financial burden, and they must depend on public transit to get to work and other important destinations. In many ways, we depend on the work of these people to provide us with the goods and services that we expect and depend on.