



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: SB 123

TITLE: Maryland Transportation Authority - Video Streaming and Archiving - Open Meetings

SPONSOR: Senator Feldman

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 5, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 123 – Maryland Transportation Authority - Video Streaming and Archiving - Open Meetings. This legislation would require the Maryland Transportation Authority to live stream all open meetings to the public.

Government transparency is a cornerstone of County Executive Olszewski’s policy objectives, and public transportation is a key issue for many of Baltimore County’s residents. By making all MDTA open meetings available to the public, this legislation would further the goal of establishing a system of accountability at all levels of government.

The costs associated with this bill would have no fiscal impact on the County and an estimated one-time-payment of \$5,000 for the State; a small price to pay considering the access that would be given to residents with neither the time nor ability to attend these meetings in person. In fact, it is precisely those residents who rely on public transportation who would benefit the most from live streams, as they may not have the flexibility personal vehicles provide.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 123. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.