



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ANDREW FRIEDSON
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

March 3, 2020

Delegate Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment & Transportation Committee
House of Delegates
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis MD 21401

Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee,

I write today in strong support of House Bill 1236 to expand MARC train service into Virginia.

This legislation would require the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to engage in negotiations with the District, Virginia, and the railroads that use and own tracks south of Union Station to allow MARC trains to carry passengers over the Potomac River into parts of Arlington and Alexandria. The availability of a “one-seat ride” on MARC with no required transfers would give our residents a greater ability to access growing job centers in Northern Virginia and give businesses and employees in Northern Virginia greater access to Montgomery County. Few opportunities within our grasp would be more transformational to our regional economy and transportation network than a one-seat ride from Maryland, through the District, and into Northern Virginia.

I urge you to give a favorable committee vote to this important legislation and I thank Delegate Jared Solomon and all co-sponsors for leading on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Friedson".

Andrew Friedson
Councilmember, District 1