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Transportation Alliance

February 7, 2020

Testimony on HB 1236 – *Transit – MARC Expansion of Service* Environment & Transportation

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports implementation of the Maryland Transit Administration's MARC Cornerstone Plan, including the extension of run-through service to L'Enfant Plaza and northern Virginia.

Allowing MARC trains to continue service beyond Washington Union Station to Alexandria will reduce commute times for many Maryland residents who work in northern Virginia. It will also improve access for Maryland commuters to the new jobs resulting from the Amazon HQ2 planned for Alexandria. It could alleviate congestion at Washington Union Station and open up new options for midday storage for MARC trains that would help the service operate more efficiently.

Our first priority is to restore existing transit assets, including the MARC, to a state of good repair. According to Federal Transit Administration data MARC trains break down more frequently than any other commuter rail system in the U.S. A second priority is to provide access to more jobs via modes that cost less, pollute less, and contribute to traffic congestion less than driving alone. HB1236 addresses that second priority.

We urge a favorable report.