

2/21/2020

Delegate Jared Solomon
Maryland State Senate
222 House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: MD HB2136 – MARC Train – Expansion of Service

Dear Delegate Solomon,

I am writing in support of HB2136, a measure that will extend MARC service into Virginia. As National Landing continues to grow, opportunities for Maryland residents grows with it. Extending the MARC train into Crystal City would go a long way to enable Maryland residents to take advantage of the jobs that are becoming increasingly available in the area. As Amazon builds its presence, not only will there be opportunities to work at Amazon, but also the multitude of businesses that are planned to move into that area including retail and restaurants.

The current commute to Crystal City involves taking the MARC train to Union station, and transferring first to the RED line, and then at Gallery Plan to the Yellow line. This causes unnecessary congestion to the already congested Metro lines, and significantly extends commute times. Union station is a major hub for Amtrak and MARC, and it doesn't make sense not to have a direct line into the fastest growing area in the DMV.

This extension could also give Marylanders much easier access to Reagan National Airport, and through a transfer to the VRE, easier access to much of Virginia. In the same respect, Virginians will also have an easier path into Maryland.

This extension represents a great solution to an obvious scaling problem with public transportation in the DMV area as the world's largest company establishes it's second headquarters. This is a win for Maryland, DC AND Virginia. As Maryland resident and a current commuter from Baltimore to Virginia, this bill has my full support.

Sincerely

Edward J Bindl