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**Vix Technology
Supports
House Bill 114: Maryland Transit Administration - Funding
(Transit Safety and Investment Act)**

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Dear Chair McIntosh and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Vix Technology, a world leader in innovative fare management solutions, **SUPPORTS** House Bill 114 and respectfully requests this Committee grant it a favorable report.

For more than 30 years, Vix has excelled at designing, implementing and managing automated fare collection, transit analytics, and passenger information solutions for customers around the globe. We have focused solely on the transport ticketing industry, and we continuously strive to be an innovation leader. With projects in more than 200 cities across the globe, we are passionate about enabling transit operators to deliver a better customer journey.

We understand the importance of investing in reliable and affordable transit infrastructure. Transit agencies and the jurisdictions they serve must invest now to drive improvements in customer experience and system financial performance, while providing tools to bridge social equity and strengthen local communities.

With smart investment and strong leadership, Maryland has a wonderful opportunity to innovate its transit system using the latest technology and best practices from systems around the world. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is moving to replace an obsolete and poorly functioning ticketing system. MTA recognizes doing so is an opportunity to not just replace like with like, but to innovate to create more opportunity and deliver powerful benefits for citizens across the state. With this procurement, MTA can move to a true 21st century fare collection system that will:

- Provide touchless fare collection, easing movement through the system and addressing contact concerns borne from the current pandemic.

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- Enable rapid and targeted adjustment to fares and fare structures. For example, to strengthen social-equity investments, MTA can use technology to streamline transit aid to essential and lower-income workers alongside other targeted populations. It can incentivize trips to targeted locations.
- Set the path for seamless connections, not only between MTA's buses, metro, light rail, and MARC trains, but also between MTA's services and those provided by WMATA, Uber, Lyft, Jump, Bolt, Lime, and more.

We know that Maryland's transit system can make great strides, and quickly, because we have already implemented these opportunities for transit systems from Stockholm to Seattle, and from Darwin to Dallas. House Bill 114 takes the right step toward investing in a modern transit system so that Maryland can Build Back Better. For these reasons, we urge this Committee to grant this bill a favorable report.