

February 3, 2021

**Testimony on HB 114 –  
Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act  
Appropriations**

**Position:** Favorable

**Grant Corley supports HB 114, the Transit Safety & Investment Act.**

I am extremely concerned that the \$6 billion in capital needs identified through MTA's latest Capital Needs Inventory are in danger of being ignored over the coming decade. The new CTP does not provide enough funding to address even the most basic backlog of deferred maintenance which plagues MTA. And at current funding levels, that backlog will only grow.

**Funding a healthy public transit system is a prerequisite for Baltimore to begin to address its issues of crime, population loss, and underinvestment.** Huge segments of Baltimore have been left behind because their residents are not able to — in a safe and convenient manner — perform the simple task of getting to work, school, church, and their other daily needs. Transit helps people hold their jobs, lives, and communities together. It is a basic function of government in a city, and needs to be funded adequately. This should include both traditional public transit (buses, trains) and paratransit services.

We know that Baltimore City has one of the most transit-dependent populations in the United States. This has been illustrated dramatically during the ongoing pandemic, as MTA bus ridership in Baltimore has dropped by 60%, compared to an overwhelming 90% drop in some other areas of the nation.

Without investment and basic maintenance, Baltimore's buses and rail vehicles will beak down more often than those at MTA's peer agencies, and in many case, more so than any other transit agency in America. **We cannot have a healthy, functioning city without a healthy transit system — much less hope to compete with the many American cities that have been investing in and improving their systems over the past decade.**

The Transit Safety & Investment Act will mandate that MTA's capital budget be at a level that allows it to address all of the needs identified and get the system back into a state of good repair so that it can operate safely and reliably.

**I want to see a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.**

Thank you,

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