



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

EVAN GLASS  
COUNCILMEMBER  
AT-LARGE

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE;  
LEAD FOR HOMELESSNESS AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

**Councilmember Evan Glass testimony on House Bill 114**  
***Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act***  
**House Appropriations Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

Chair McIntosh and members of the Appropriations Committee,

As an At-Large member of the Montgomery County Council, I understand the varying transportation needs of residents across our large jurisdiction. Montgomery County benefits substantially from services and funding offered by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), in both visible and discrete ways.

Montgomery County is bisected by the MARC Brunswick Line, which serves 11 stations in Montgomery County from Dickerson to Silver Spring. MARC is a valuable service that allows residents a congestion-free and productive commute to Washington from points north and west, especially residents from upper Montgomery County. Unfortunately, it is too often beset by unreliability and delays due to breakdowns, and many MARC stations are not accessible for those with disabilities.

The funding in this act will make the MARC system safer, more reliable, and more appealing to riders as we recover from the pandemic.

Additionally, Montgomery County's Ride On system, which consists of more than 80 routes and carries tens of thousands of riders per day, receives funding from MTA's locally operated transit systems aid. Ride On has become even more important during the pandemic as many low-income essential workers use the system to reach their jobs throughout the county. A large majority of Ride On customers are also people of color. It is vital that Ride On continue to operate a robust and reliable system that moves people around the county to work and errands, and MTA funding is necessary to maintain that level of service.

And finally, MTA in conjunction with private firms is currently building the Purple Line, which we hope will become operational within a few years. To keep the project going in the wake of a dispute with the former contractor, the state has to pay additional money to keep construction crews at work. This is yet another example of why a healthily-funded MTA is essential for Montgomery County residents.

I urge the Committee to vote favorably on House Bill 114 to ensure that MTA can address its infrastructure needs and continue to be the backbone of Maryland's transit systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Glass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Evan Glass  
Councilmember, At-Large