



516 N. Charles Street, Suite 312 - Baltimore, Maryland 21201

February 3, 2021

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

Position: Favorable

Transit Choices supports HB 114, the Transit Safety & Investment Act.

In July 2019, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) released its first ever Capital Needs Inventory (CNI) to assess its ongoing, unconstrained capital needs. The CNI identified \$5.7 billion of capital needs over the next ten years, \$1.5 billion of which is an accumulated backlog of deferred maintenance. Unfortunately, MDOT's FY 2021–2026 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) does not provide the MTA sufficient funding to address the annual maintenance and repairs identified in the CNI. In fact, at current funding levels the maintenance backlog will grow.

The result of the neglected maintenance is buses, light rail vehicles, subway trains and commuter trains that break down more often than the MTA's peer agencies, and in some cases, more often than any transit agency in the nation. This leads to poor service which leads to drops in ridership, and a negative spiral.

Transit Choices believes that safe, efficient and reliable public transit is an essential means to achieving personal and economic independence. In Baltimore City, there has never been a greater need to address the shortcomings of our existing public transit systems. People of all ages, races, ethnicities, and abilities deserve access to a transportation system that will enable them to achieve their fullest potential.

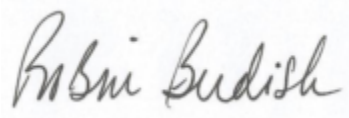
The Transit Safety & Investment Act will mandate that MTA's capital budget be at a level that allows it to address all of the needs identified and get the system back into a state of good repair so that it can operate safely and reliably.

Now is the time to redirect our public investment towards a 21st century public transit system that will carry people throughout the region to their destinations quickly and efficiently. Now is the time for change.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Robin Budish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Robin" is written with a large, stylized 'R' and 'B'. The last name "Budish" is written in a more compact, cursive script.

Robin Budish
Director

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