



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO, CHAIR
JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK, VICE-CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, TREASURER
JESSE T. PIPPY, SECRETARY
CESIAH FUENTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMBERS

ALFRED CARR
ALONZO WASHINGTON
ANNE HEALEY
ARIANA B. KELLY
BEN BARNES
BENJAMIN KRAMER
BONNIE CULLISON
BROOKE LIERMAN
CAROL L. KRIMM
CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD
CHERYL KAGAN
CRAIG ZUCKER
DAVID MOON
DIANA FENNELL
EMILY SHETTY
EREK BARRON
ERIC LUEDTKE
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH
GUY GUZZONE
HEATHER BAGNALL
J. SANDY BARTLETT
JAMES ROSAPEPE
JARED SOLOMON
JAZZ LEWIS
JEFF WALDSTREICHER
JEN TERRASA
JESSICA FELDMARK
JHEANELLE WILKINS
JILL P. CARTER
JIM GILCHRIST
JULIAN IVEY
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
KEN KERR
LESLEY LOPEZ
LILY QI
LISA BELCASTRO
LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
MAGGIE MCINTOSH
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
MARC KORMAN
MARY A. LEHMAN
MARY WASHINGTON
MELISSA WELLS
MIKE ROGERS
NICOLE WILLIAMS
PAMELA BEIDLE
PAMELA QUEEN
REGINA T. BOYCE
ROBBYN LEWIS
SHANE PENDERGRASS
SHANEKA HENSON
SHEILA RUTH
SHELLY HETTLEMAN
STEPHANIE SMITH
SUSAN C. LEE
TERRI HILL
VAUGHN STEWART
WANIKA FISHER
WILL SMITH

TO: Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: February 3, 2021

RE: HB114 Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

The MLLC supports HB114 Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act).

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB114.

Residents use Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) services every day. The MTA serves almost 70% of the state's population and they average 320,000 weekday trips and 95 million trips per year. Due to underfunding, the MTA is underserving its riders and that has serious consequences for our communities.

MTA services experience more shutdowns, delays, and breakdowns compared to transit systems in other major cities. Black and Brown communities and low-income families are more likely to be directly impacted by underfunded public transportation systems. Lack of public transportation for these families restricts their access to essential destinations, such as work, school, and health-related appointments. It becomes difficult for these affected individuals to reach employment and academic opportunities without adequate transit. With a rapidly growing Latino community and a population that relies heavily on our public transit system, it is critical that MTA obtains the necessary funds for the years to come.

HB114 extends provisions of the Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act (Chapters 351 and 352 of 2018), through 2028, that require increased operating and capital spending for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This bill provides critical funding annually for capital improvements so that MTA can meet state of good repair and enhancement needs. All Marylanders should have access to reliable public transportation.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB114.