

January 20, 2021

**Testimony on SB 199 – *Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act*
Budget & Taxation**

Position: Favorable

I Sachin Hebbar, am a member of the **Maryland Transit Administration’s Citizen Advisory Committee**. I am also a member of the **Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee**. In addition, I also server as the Co – Chair of the **Baltimore County Department of Aging Transportation Subcommittee**. I am strongly in **favor of SB 199**, the Transit Safety & Investment Act.

The Baltimore Sun on January 11th of this year reported that “The MTA had forecast a \$2 billion shortfall in maintenance funding over the next decade — and that was before the pandemic tanked MTA ridership and other state transportation revenues.” The result of the neglected maintenance is buses, light rail vehicles, subway trains and commuter trains that break down at a rate higher than its peer agencies.

Many transit – dependent residents of Baltimore area rely on a safe and smooth functioning public transit network to get to their jobs. The General Assembly must ensure that this critical service continues to operate optimally so that they can continue to keep their jobs in these trying times.

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.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Thank you,

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