

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

March 9, 2021

Delegate and Committee Chair Barve
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: **Support** for HB 1204, the Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances
Act of 2021

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

We are writing in support of HB 1024, the Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of HB 1204, which will enable a proactive and anticipatory approach to equity in transit. This will ensure that changes in MDOT MTA service do not disproportionately impact transit-reliant populations. The history of MDOT MTA service changes, including the proposed service cuts in 2020 that would have severely cut service for predominantly poor and black communities in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, point to the need for the provisions contained in HB 1204. We encourage the Commission on Transportation Equity to go a step further and to add requirements that it put forth mode share goals and transportation demand management strategies for MDOT MTA, either via amendment to this Bill or through parallel efforts.

We urge the Committee to support HB 1024.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Ruth