



7338 Baltimore Ave  
Suite 102  
College Park, MD 20740

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Testimony on: HB1204 – “Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses (Transportation Equity Analyses and Assurances Act of 2021)”**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: March 11, 2021**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB1204, which would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to make achieving equity in the transportation sector a primary goal in its planning and decision making for all modes of transportation in the state. MDOT would be required to collect and analyze data on racial disparities in transportation and how persons with disabilities are impacted, and to conduct transit equity and cost-benefit analyses before proposing any significant service change. Finally, the bill would create an independent Commission on Transportation Equity to assist in the development of equitable transportation policies.

We strongly support transportation policies that treat all residents in an equitable manner, dismantle systemic racism, reduce pollution in overburdened communities, and provide access to good jobs, healthcare, education, healthy food, and green spaces in all communities, especially those that have historically been underserved. Equitable transportation also would provide incentives for community economic development. This bill is necessary because Marylanders have faced racial discrimination in transportation for generations. The building of highways through Black communities and the cancellation of Baltimore’s Red Line represent a continuation of government policies that disproportionately withheld resources and infrastructure from predominantly Black communities, and further perpetuated racial and income inequities.

In summary, this bill would help reverse the pattern of discrimination in transportation over many decades in this state by ensuring that equity is not an afterthought when transportation decisions are made. It would increase transparency with annual reporting of data on equity, and the independent commission created through this bill would help prevent future decisions that would have disparate impacts on low-income communities and people with disabilities.

We urge a **favorable report** on HB 1204 to increase transportation equity in Maryland.

Brian Ditzler  
Transportation Chair  
[Brian.Ditzler@MDSierra.org](mailto:Brian.Ditzler@MDSierra.org)

Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
[Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org](mailto:Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org)

Lindsey Mendelson  
Transportation Representative  
[Lindsey.Mendelson@MDSierra.org](mailto:Lindsey.Mendelson@MDSierra.org)

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.