

## **HB1204 Organization Support Letter**

Note: a list of organizations signed on in support is at the bottom of this letter.

Maryland has a shamefully long history of racist transportation policies, from highways built through and dividing Black communities to the cancelation of the Red Line route, which would have provided urgently-needed access to jobs for residents in low-income, redlined communities in Baltimore and regional economy-transforming, transit-oriented-development (TOD). Equitable transportation will play a key role in dismantling systemic racism by:

- Increasing access to good jobs, schools, education, and food;
- Providing incentives for community economic development;
- Reducing smog, air pollution, and heat islands, which disproportionately impact Black communities

Only by being intentional about equity in the transportation sector can we begin to dismantle centuries of systemic racism.

Because many people with disabilities and many low-income households do not have access to cars, lack of access to other modes of transportation disproportionately harms them. Without access to transportation, people with disabilities continue to be alienated from the economic mainstream. People with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty in part due to difficulty accessing jobs, education and medical care. Because many individuals with disabilities have increased health care needs, isolation can have a profound impact on quality of life, health, and safety. The Transportation Equity Act requires data collection and analysis of the impact of transportation on people with disabilities, and adds a representative of Disability Rights Maryland to the Commission on Transportation Equity created in the bill.

The Transportation Equity Act requires:

- Equity as a primary goal in the Maryland Transportation Plan;
- MDOT to collect and analyze data on racial disparities and impact on persons with disabilities in the annual Attainment Report;
- Adding a representative from the Maryland State Conference NAACP to the Attainment Advisory Committee;
- Creation of a Commission on Transportation Equity as an independent body responsible for developing policies, guidelines, assurances, and performance measures to ensure an equitable transportation system;
- Transit equity analyses, cost benefit analysis, and outreach to affected communities before public hearings on any major service change;
- Cross-modal analysis;
- Increased transparency with annual reporting and service change analysis reporting.

Equity should not be an afterthought or a box to check. Real people's lives are impacted by transportation. All Marylanders, regardless of race, income, zip code, or disability, should have an equal right to the benefits of a well-planned transportation system.

**The undersigned organizations ask for a favorable report for HB1204.**

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Ames UMC Bel Air

ArchPlan Inc.

Baltimore City Green Party

Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club

Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC)

Bikemore (Baltimore)

BRIDGE Maryland

CASA

Catonsville Indivisibles

Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry

Central Maryland Transportation Alliance

Clean Water Action

Disability Rights Maryland

Downtown Residents Advocacy Network (Baltimore)

Dream Corps Green For All

Farm Alliance of Baltimore

Howard County Climate Action ([www.HoCoClimateAction.org](http://www.HoCoClimateAction.org))

Indivisible Central Maryland

Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program

JOTF

Labor Network for Sustainability (LNS)

Laurel Resist

Lower Shore Progressive Caucus

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland Sierra Club

MLC Climate Justice Wing

NAACP Maryland State Conference, Environmental and Climate Justice Committee

Our Revolution Baltimore City/County

Our Revolution Howard County

Our Revolution Maryland

Progressive Maryland

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

Strong Future Maryland

Sunrise Movement Baltimore

Sunrise Movement Maryland

Sunrise Movement McDaniel

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Voices Maryland

WISE

WISE Poverty Huddle