

Testimony In Support of SB869:
Statewide Transit Plan – Western Maryland MARC Rail Extension Study
Finance Committee
March 10, 2021
Provided by Ralph Salvagno, Mayor, Town of Hancock

The Town of Hancock is proud to offer testimony to support the study of additional transportation options for Western Maryland. We look forward to the opportunity to work with Delegate Corderman and the Maryland General Assembly - the Town is grateful for the consideration of public transportation options that would benefit our region.

Our town is located in Washington County and is home to approximately 1,700 residents. Hancock is home to wonderful natural resources and an increasingly vibrant Main Street. Similar to many rural towns, we see opportunities to improve and the Town of Hancock is invested in redesigning our strategy for economic development. This legislation affords the Town to join the conversation about the future transportation network that will directly impact our economy.

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) provides economic support data to illustrate the positive impact an investment such as the extension of Western Maryland MARC Rail. For every dollar invested in public transportation, APTA estimates that approximately \$4 in economic returns would be returned (www.apta.com/news-publications/public-transportation-facts/).

The Town is excited to support the use of creative mechanisms to support businesses in our area. We seek partners to deepen partnerships with our Town - SB 869 provide a forum for the Town to engage. We believe that targeted efforts toward public investments to foster high-growth and innovation will most likely result in jobs for members of our community. Simply put, SB 869 will assist us in our work to spur economic growth in rural Western Maryland.

Sitting at the junction of I 70 , I 68 and US 522 and with less than two miles separating neighboring counties in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, Hancock is an ideal access point for mass transportation. The town recognizes its responsibility to be a part of discussions regarding transportation options in the region.

For these reasons, on behalf of the Town of Hancock, I urge you to support SB 869.