



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
COUNTY COUNCIL

Jessica Fitzwater
Council Member District 4

February 15, 2022

Delegate Maggie McIntosh
Baltimore City
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

RE: Jessica Fitzwater; Bill HB0778; Favorable

Dear Delegate McIntosh,

I write in support of the Maryland Regional Rail Transportation Act (HB 0778/ SB 0514). This regional rail vision will better connect our people and jurisdictions and allow for more prosperous and sustainable growth. The proposed investment plans are considered best practice in the transportation industry and are necessary first steps to help the state compete for \$66 billion in federal funds for rail made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Specifically, the requirement for MTA to establish an individual investment program in the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), starting in FY 2023 and to be updated at least every five fiscal years, for the Brunswick Line will have an incredible impact on Frederick County. The bill also requires MTA to explore extending the Brunswick line to serve Western Maryland.

Successfully completing rail infrastructure projects to enable a more connected and thriving state requires long-term commitment and dedicated resources over multiple years. This investment will help Frederick County and the State reach our greenhouse gas emission goals by reducing the number of cars on the road, will provide additional transportation opportunities to working families, and will strengthen our local and state economy by better connecting our communities. It really is an environmental and economic justice issue.

The Maryland Regional Rail Transportation Act will be a game changer for Frederick County and I urge you and your colleagues to support this work.

Thank you for your service,

Jessica Fitzwater
Frederick County Council
District 4