



Testimony HB 632
House Appropriations Committee
February 18, 2022
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Korman & Members of the Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee:

The Community Development Network of Maryland (CDN) is the voice for Maryland's community development sector and serves nearly 200 member organizations. CDN—focuses on small affordable housing developers, housing counseling agencies and community-based non-profits across the state of Maryland. The mission of CDN is to promote, strengthen and advocate for the community development sector throughout Maryland's urban, suburban and rural communities. CDN envisions a state in which all communities are thriving and where people of all incomes have abundant opportunities for themselves and their families.

HB 632 would require the State Department of Transportation promptly to undertake all steps necessary to complete the design, engineering, and National Environmental Policy Act process and secure a record of decision for the Red Line transit project and a MARC rail extension to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center; requiring the Department to prepare a plan for the funding and financing of the construction and operation of the Red Line transit project and MARC rail extension to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center; etc.

In 2015 Gov. Larry Hogan canceled the \$2.9 billion Red Line, scrapping a project which would have brought jobs, development and environmental sustainability, especially for Baltimore's predominantly black west side neighborhoods that have long been cut off from opportunity and public investment. The newly elected governor returned \$900 million in federal funding and shifted \$736 million of state money to roads in the surrounding, predominantly white counties.

The transit line — from Woodlawn through West Baltimore, downtown, Fells Point and Canton to Johns Hopkins Bayview on the east — had been planned since 2002. But various versions of the line had been on city transit planning maps since the 1960s. The Red Line could have transformed the Baltimore region's meager, single-line light rail and subway, into a more unified, useful network. The project promised to create more than 10,000 jobs and stimulate \$6.5 billion in economic development

For too long, the Baltimore region has ignored the region's need for a first class transportation system that serves people and moves people to work, services, and amenities in the region.

We ask your favorable report for HB 632.

Submitted by Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director, Community Development Network