



**March 10, 2022**

**HB1336 – GREATER BALTIMORE TRANSIT FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE COMMISSION  
House Appropriations Committee  
FAVORABLE**

The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) supports HB1336 – Greater Baltimore Transit Funding and Governance Commission.

BMC is the host entity of the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), our region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The BRTB is responsible for programming federal transportation funding in our region and developing our region’s long range transportation plan.

In August of 2021, the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) published a report entitled Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and Funding Study. This report is a comprehensive analysis of our region’s transit system that includes the evolution of MTA and our locally operated transit systems, a national review of peer agencies and systems, and an exploration of existing and potential funding mechanisms. The report concludes with a description of six potential models for funding and governance of transit in the future. These models range from the status quo to the creation of an entirely new authority.

The intent behind the 2021 report was to set the parameters for a long term and complex policy discussion. For this reason, the 2021 report did not rank or score the funding and governance models. The commission proposed by HB1336 is the next logical step in this process. The state and local stakeholders on the commission will take the BRTB’s research and use it to make informed policy recommendations to the State of Maryland, Maryland General Assembly and the local governments who will be most impacted by any changes to our current model.

Any change to a service as important as public transportation deserves serious and comprehensive consideration, and BMC believes this commission is an important next step in this critical conversation.