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BILL NO.: **Senate Bill 514**

TITLE: **Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service
(Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)**

SPONSOR: **Senator Biedle**

COMMITTEE: **Appropriations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **March 29, 2022**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senator Bill 514 – Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act). This legislation requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to increase investments in the infrastructure and planning of the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Rail Service.

The MARC service helps those in the Baltimore region easily and affordably travel through the State and to nearby cities through the region. Further investment in reliable public transportation is a priority of Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski. The administration was proud to launch The Loop last fall, a first-of-its kind public transit system in Baltimore County, because of its now realized potential to connect communities to growing industries at no cost to County residents. Investments in transit at all scales is essential to increasing access to employment opportunities, recreational activity, and other resources for all Marylanders.

Senate Bill 514 would provide the necessary resources to maintain and grow the MARC rail service. For each line of the MARC, this legislation would set up an investment program which will include review of rail operations, concept plans for infrastructure improvements and identification of enhanced access to employment. Enhancement of public transit will ensure all Maryland residents can sustainably and reliably access the resources they need.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 514. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.