

## Memorandum

Date: Tuesday, March 08, 2022

**To: Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding Commission – Appropriations**

From: Klaus Philipsen

Re: **Testimony on HB 1336**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

As President of ArchPlan Inc. I support HB 1336.

Leaders in the Greater Baltimore region are seeking to reform the way public transportation is governed and financed. The current centralized governance structure of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) resulted in the cancellation of the Red Line, a project vital to the region in which in excess of \$240 million had been invested.

The lack of local participation in planning and funding decisions also is a contributing factor in ongoing maintenance problems in the entire MTA operated transit system. Of the 50 largest transit agencies in the country, the MTA is the only one that is part of a state department of transportation without a board of directors and where decision-making lies solely with a governor.

As President of ArchPlan I have been involved in numerous MTA led projects, including the Red Line in which I personally invested parts of 13 years of my professional life.

HB 1336 creates a commission to answer key questions on how to create a new Baltimore Regional Transportation Authority enabling the General Assembly to draft authorizing legislation towards implementation a regional transit authority. Reforming the current system is a critical step for improving and expanding transit service, increasing oversight and accountability, and bringing additional local and federal funds for transit to the region.

We respectfully encourage a favorable report.