

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Elizabeth A. Hafey
Associate Director, State Affairs

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Johns Hopkins supports **House Bill 778 – Transportation – Investment Program – MARC Rail Service**. This bill would require the state to develop capital plans to meaningfully improve the state’s regional rail network to build a more connected future. This bill will support communities across the state by requiring MTA to create investment programs along the Brunswick line to Western Maryland, the Penn and Camden lines connecting the Baltimore and Washington metro areas, advance rail connections to Delaware and Northern Virginia, and begin preliminary design for new infill MARC stations that will expand access to one of Maryland’s great transportation assets.

As the State’s largest private employer, with more than 53,000 Marylanders in our employ, Johns Hopkins knows that adequate investments in Maryland’s transportation system are critical to the economic competitiveness and livelihood of our state and region and in the lives of all our employees, students, patients, and visitors. Every day, they rely on it to get to work or school, to access healthcare, or to meet their needs. Furthermore, the MTA transit system serves hundreds of thousands of employees and their families that rely on MARC, commuter bus, and Baltimore metro transit services to access essential destinations throughout Maryland.

Johns Hopkins is a member of the Greater Washington Partnership. The Partnership is a civic alliance of leading employers in the Capital Region of Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond, who together employ more than 300,000 residents and are committed to making this region one of the best places to live, work, and build a business. In 2018, the Partnership released the [Blueprint for Regional Mobility](#), an action-oriented strategy to transform the Capital Region’s transportation system into an asset that ensures our global competitiveness. Additionally, the Partnership supported the region’s creation of the [Capital Region Rail Vision](#), a 25-year strategy to transform the regional rail network to better connect our diverse communities to jobs, opportunity and inclusive growth. **HB 778** addresses key recommendations included in both the Blueprint and the Rail Vision.

Johns Hopkins urges a **favorable report on HB 778**.