



Transportation Alliance

February 16, 2022

Testimony on HB 778 – *Transportation – Investment Program – MARC Rail Service* Appropriations

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports HB 778.

Maryland's MARC commuter rail system connects Baltimore and Washington, DC to each other and to many of Maryland's suburban communities, but the state must advance the investment programs identified in the MARC Cornerstone Plan to unlock a truly regional rail system that reliably services Maryland residents and communities.

Dating back to at least 2007, the state has made plans to improve and expand MARC services through the MARC Growth and Investment Plan. That plan was updated in 2013. And most recently updated again in 2019 as the MARC Cornerstone Plan. Unfortunately, there has not been meaningful progress on implementing many of the improvements outlined in these plans. HB 778 seeks to remedy that by requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to develop investment programs for each of MARC's three rail lines.

We will not fully realize the benefits of Maryland's commuter rail systems unless we create actionable investment programs that ensure the state implements the vision laid out in the MARC Cornerstone Plan. HB 778 will help to do just that.

We encourage a favorable report.