

February 17, 2022

Hon. Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

Position: **Support**: House Bill 778: Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service
(Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)


Please accept these comments on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading non-profit organization in the D.C. region, including suburban Maryland, advocating for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

We wish to express our support for HB 778. This bill will greatly advance needed upgrades to the MARC commuter rail system, giving Maryland travelers better options for commuting and other trips. This bill also makes Maryland competitive to win federal funds for passenger rail made available through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

We recommend that as we advance this legislation, we recognize the importance of investing in existing service and making it better. The bill requires the identification of service improvements, including midday, weekend, and evening service, along with run-through and bi-directional service. In addition, it calls for new capital improvements to enhance MARC service. We support this scope of enhanced existing service and careful operational and capital improvements to better connect Maryland and build rail ridership.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Cort
Policy Director