



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: **Senate Bill 514 - Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)**

SPONSOR: **Senator Beidle, et al.**

HEARING DATE: **March 29, 2022**

COMMITTEE: **Appropriations**

CONTACT: **Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411**

POSITION: **SUPPORT AS AMENDED**

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 514 - Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)**, which requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to establish individual investment programs to advance the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) Cornerstone Plan and other MARC improvements by providing incremental enhancements for (1) the Brunswick Line; (2) the Camden Line; (3) the Penn Line; (4) new regional service between Perryville, Maryland, and Newark, Delaware; (5) new regional run-through rail service to Alexandria, Virginia; and (6) extending the Brunswick Line to better serve Western Maryland. **Senate Bill 514** calls for 15% design of a fourth track on the Penn Line and advancing design of a third track on portions of the Brunswick Line. **Senate Bill 514** requires the MTA to conduct a MARC Cornerstone Plan Implementation Study. The bill will take effect July 1, 2022, if passed.

The MARC Cornerstone Plan addresses a 30-year planning period and identifies capital improvements needed to maintain a state of good repair for the MARC system. The plan also outlines capital needs required to improve and expand service.

The MTA operates a comprehensive transit system throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. Its' commuter train service operates three different lines that serve several Maryland counties; Washington, DC; and Martinsburg, West Virginia: (1) the Brunswick Line; (2) the Camden Line; and (3) the Penn Line. In December 2013, MARC began to offer weekend service on the Penn Line; the other lines offer service only on weekdays and select holidays. MARC service is provided by running State-owned MARC trains on existing Amtrak railways owned by CSX. MTA and the Virginia Railway Express are currently exploring the potential for MARC to extend service to Northern Virginia.

The Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) recommends support for **Senate Bill 514** because it will benefit the County's residents and businesses by advancing improvements to the MARC system. The MARC system provides

significant service in the County via the Camden and Penn Lines. MTA operates a comprehensive transit system throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 514 AS AMENDED** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.