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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Thursday, March 29, 2022

**SB 514 /HB 778**  
**Transportation – Investment Program – MARC Rail Service**  
**(Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)**

Good Afternoon Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and Members of Appropriation;

SB 514 passed the Senate 43 – 3 and is the cross-file of HB 778 that recently passed the House 113 to 18, the bills are currently in same posture.

The bill requires the Administration to develop a transit vision statement with strategic priorities, policies, programs and initiatives for MARC rail service. Safe, reliable transit access across Maryland with world-class customer service.

The bills require the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to establish a MARC Cornerstone Implementation Workgroup for enhancing certain rail lines operated by the MARC rail service. It requires the Administration to conduct a study to unlock a truly regional rail system that will connect more Maryland communities to Virginia and Delaware.

The Administration shall establish investment programs and other MARC improvements for:

- The Brunswick Line, including a third line to better serve Western Maryland
- The Camden Line
- The Penn Line
- New service between Perryville and Newark
- New service to Alexandria, Virginia

The MTA is required to identify a 5 year priority set of capital projects and activities to implement planned improvements to be funded in the CTP.

- In coordination with District of Columbia, Virginia, The Virginia Railway Express, Amtrak and CSX develop a service and operations for MARC through-running to Alexandria and
- In coordination with Delaware, Pennsylvania, SEPTA, and Amtrak develop a service and operations plan for MARC, SEPTA or Amtrak to run competitive transit schedules between Perryville and Newark.

The bill lays out a specific timeline and requires that staff be hired beginning in Fiscal Year 2023 for planning and capital programming to ensure adequate staff resources to leverage federal rail funding.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 514.