



February 15, 2022

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair  
Maryland House Appropriations Committee  
Room 121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 778: Maryland Regional Rail Transportation Act

POSITION: Support

Dear Delegate McIntosh:

I am writing to express Downtown Frederick Partnership's support for HB 778: Maryland Regional Rail Transportation Act. The Partnership is a historic preservation based, economic development nonprofit that works to enhance, promote and preserve the vitality, livability and diversity of Downtown Frederick, a national Main Street community.

Achieving increased MARC train service to Downtown Frederick is an official policy goal of the Partnership and has been since 2018. The Partnership knows that increased MARC train service to Downtown Frederick will bring economic development, access and environmental benefits to our community. Increased service also is supported by approved City of Frederick policy documents.

The Partnership's adopted policy specifically calls out support for improvements at the Point of Rocks Station in order to increase weekday MARC train service. Once these improvements are implemented and weekday service is increased, Downtown Frederick becomes a more attractive business location. Expanded service will attract downtown residents and enable those residents to reach a wider range of job opportunities. The Partnership works to ensure that Downtown Frederick has a strong and growing residential base. Improvements at this station have the potential to achieve a high return for a limited investment.

In summary, the Partnership is a strong supporter of the proposed legislation and looks forward to the resulting transit improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a horizontal line.

Kara Norman, AICP; Executive Director