



Coalition for Smarter Growth

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February 14, 2022

Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, MD 21401

**HB 438, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority - Funding Formulas - Alteration
(WMATA Dedicated Funding Amendment Act of 2022)**

Testimony for February 15, 2022

Jane Lyons, Maryland Advocacy Manager

Thank you, Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and delegates for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 438, the WMATA Dedicated Funding Amendment Act of 2022. Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading organization advocating for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all.

CSG was proud of the role we played in bringing various stakeholders together to advocate for the 2018 Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act. We are grateful to the Maryland General Assembly for passing the bipartisan legislation that enabled \$167 million of capital spending per year from Maryland, matched by DC and Virginia.

HB 438 would change the dedicated funding formula to apply a 3% growth formula to the larger dedicated funding account instead of the “base capital” amount, so that the dedicated funding can grow and be bonded on. This would only take effect if DC and Virginia passed parallel legislation.

WMATA continues to be the backbone of the region’s transit system, despite shifts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, many essential workers relied on Metro to get to their jobs. Even though service will likely look different going forward, more than 75% of trips are non-commute trips, and Metro is working to pivot its operations to better serve those non-commuting trips, as well as facilitate the return to office for thousands of workers.

Thus, we urge you to support HB 438. Thank you for your consideration.