



**HB0632- Baltimore East–West Corridor – Transit Study – Requirements  
Testimony before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Hearing March 29, 2022  
Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB0632**, requiring the State Department of Transportation to take steps to advance the completion of the Baltimore Red Line light rail project and a MARC rail extension to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, and then issue a record of decision on those projects. We are grateful to Delegates Rosenberg, Smith, Attar, and Bridges for their sponsorship of this bill.

This bill would address two serious problems in Baltimore. It would address decades of systemic racism and discrimination in housing and transportation in Baltimore, and it would address Baltimore City's high rate of mortality due to air pollution, one of the highest in the United States. Transportation is the largest source of climate-damaging air pollution in Maryland now.

The Red Line project and MARC extension would provide residents in a densely populated and under-resourced area with high quality public transportation that would significantly improve access to employment opportunities, education, housing, and healthcare, dramatically reduce commute times, connect community members to major destinations throughout the region, and foster economic development in the Red Line transit corridor.

Building the Red Line and expanding the MARC commuter service would also reduce gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicle trips as well as traffic congestion in Baltimore, which would in turn reduce greenhouse gases and other toxic emissions from vehicle tailpipes that are hazardous to human health. This is further justification for proceeding with the proposed transit projects in Baltimore.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

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