



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL 710 – EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE TRANSIT-ORIENTED
DEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT

Sponsor – Delegates Lewis, et al

February 17, 2022

DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

House Bill 710 would expand the More Jobs for Marylanders Program to allow some businesses located in transit-oriented developments to qualify for the program. It also creates a Transit-Oriented Development Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund, which is a nonlapsing fund designed to promote the equitable and inclusive development of transit-oriented developments throughout the state.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) has long supported responsible transit-oriented development. The provisions of this bill require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to use a data-driven approach and to utilize an equity lens when making capital and operating funding decisions. MDOT would be required to submit an annual report on the demographics, development activity, and transit utilization rates for each transit-oriented development site.

House Bill 710 also creates a Transit-Oriented Development Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund. The bill provision mandates an annual appropriation to ensure a fund balance of at least \$10,000,000. The fund may be used to provide financial assistance to local jurisdictions for design plans or public infrastructure improvements for a transit-oriented development project. The bill also allows a private entity participating in a transit-oriented development to partner with a local jurisdiction to receive gap funding for a project.

This bill is consistent with a core tenet in *Gaining A Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth. The key pillar that is applicable to this legislation is as follows:

Superior transportation infrastructure with reliable funding mechanisms. An essential prerequisite of a competitive business environment includes well-funded and maintained highway, transit, port and airport infrastructure that provides reliable and efficient options to move people, goods and services.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on House Bill 710.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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