



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 1336

March 10, 2022

TO: Members of the House Appropriations and House Environment and Transportation Committees

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 1336 – Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding Commission

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chairs McIntosh and Barve, Vice Chairs Chang and Stein, and Members of the Committees, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 1336.

HB 1336 would establish a Greater Baltimore Transit Governance and Funding Commission. The newly established commission would be tasked with conducting research and providing recommendations related to transit funding, governance, and performance in the greater Baltimore region. The work of this Commission would build from the *Baltimore Region Transit Governance and Funding Study* completed by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council in 2021. The legislation requires the Commission to complete an interim report by December 1, 2022, and a final report by December 1, 2023, for submission to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly.

A critical step towards improving transit service across the greater Baltimore region is to review our current transit funding, governance, and performance conditions and compare with transit agencies serving other American metropolitan areas. The current governance structure, with Baltimore's core transit services being delivered by a state agency, MDOT MTA, is uncommon for a large American metropolitan area. Currently, MDOT MTA must balance serving their core Baltimore service area with the transit needs of Maryland in its entirety.

Identifying opportunities to strengthen the greater Baltimore region's transit future is critically important to the economic wellbeing of both Baltimore City and the State of Maryland.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1336.