



**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND**
MARYLAND

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Subject: Favorable HB0053 Dedicated Bus Lanes

To: House Environment and Transportation Committee

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

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The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland request that the Environment and Transportation Committee give a favorable report on HB0053. This bill will create dedicated bus lanes and will enforce their use in Baltimore City.

Since we cannot drive, blind people must use public transportation. This bill will improve public transportation by improving the timeliness of bus performance and will reduce long commutes from one point to another. Blind people use the bus system not only to participate in education and employment opportunities, but also to gain access to grocery stores, medical care, and church/community activities. Improving the bus service will allow blind individuals to participate in all aspects of community life. This bill is more than a transportation bill, it is a vehicle to achieve equality.

Please vote in favor of HB0053 and improve the quality of life for blind people and other individuals with disabilities.