

Good afternoon. I'm Rev. Brian Murray a citizen of Baltimore and a member of faith based BRIDGE Maryland. As I speak we are living in a city where there are unnecessarily long commuter times on public transportation for current and potential employees from certain parts of the city. In this pandemic season everyone does not have the luxury of working from home. There are a large number of service workers and essential employees whose employment is connected to this unreliable system. After school activities are affected. Our elderly citizens dread darkness falling. Citizens with disabilities have endured buses unable to accommodate them. And why does this dynamic exist? Inequity. An inequity that speaks to an imbalance in budget and service reductions in neighborhoods impacted by poverty or populated with people of color. These are decisions being made that affect people's quality of life in adverse ways and being made absent community input. And instead of jumping from issue to issue we are stating that the dominant crisis needs to be addressed and corrected. The dominant crisis is historically focusing primarily on public transportation that serves white people and people of privilege at the expense of those in black, brown, and underserved communities. Thus the Transportation Equity and Analysis Act calls for enforcement of the Title VI federal mandates for racial equity. It requires MDOT/MTA to submit to equity analysis, cross modal analysis, and oversight by an accurate representation from all communities involved in the outcomes. Your vote of yes on HB 141 will insure that our citizens will not have their successes short circuited by substandard public transportation. Thank you.