



Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB023 - Equity in Transportation Sector-Guidelines & Analyses

Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 26, 2022

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB023. This bill rectifies decades (really, centuries) of inequality in transportation access for black and brown communities by affirmatively requiring the State to make equity a primary goal in Maryland's Transportation Plan.

SB023 is necessary because although Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act was supposed to guarantee equal access to public transportation, Maryland has not enforced it at the state level. Examples of race-based inequity are ample: from the cancellation of the Red Line to the fact that that the MTA service cuts in September 2020 placed the greatest burden on the routes servicing black communities, while there were no cuts in the airport or state highway administration and only minor temporary cuts proposed for the MARC commuter rail service with its 65-70% white ridership.

SB023 helps to fix these inequities by requiring a proactive and anticipatory approach to equity in transit and intermodal transit planning and by broadening participation by transit dependent communities in that planning.

It is time for Maryland to take this vital step forward in the fight against race-based transit policies. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

