



**Transportation  
Alliance**



**Bikemore**

February 10, 2022

**Testimony on HB 53 –  
*Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Prohibition and Monitoring Systems*  
Environment & Transportation**

**Position: Favorable**

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and Bikemore support HB 53.

In June 2017, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) launched BaltimoreLink, a comprehensive redesign of its bus system serving Greater Baltimore. As part of that initiative, MTA partnered with Baltimore City to establish dedicated bus lanes in and around downtown Baltimore. MTA and Baltimore City partnered on and won federal grants for the North Avenue Rising project which added more dedicated bus lanes in 2021 and the East-West Transit Corridor project, which will add an additional 10 miles of bus lanes in coming years.

Bus lanes can be an effective tool to move people more efficiently through our most crowded and economically productive corridors. Public education and enforcement are critical to the effectiveness of dedicated bus lanes. But bus riders regularly report that lanes are blocked by parked or standing cars and trucks. At the Transportation Alliance we recruited volunteers and conducted observations of bus lanes in fall 2018. During our observations 25% of the time a car or truck was parked in any given block of a bus lane. Buses are forced to merge into general travel lanes, causing delays and disrupting schedules.

The effectiveness of this bill will be measurable in the reduction of incidences of cars or trucks stopped or standing in bus lanes, reduced travel times for bus trips, higher reliability for scheduled bus arrivals, and moving more people per hour through our busiest corridors. A recent study from New York City shows camera enforcement on bus lanes increased bus speeds by up to 34% and increased ridership by up to 20%.

We will not realize the benefits of the dedicated bus lanes until we effectively and consistently enforce them. HB 53 builds on the MTA-City partnership by allowing the City to do just that.

We encourage a favorable report.