



# LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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February 2, 2022

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Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer **favorable** support for HB 141- Equity in Transportation Sector- Guidelines and Analyses. This legislation requires that equity be considered when certain State transportation plans, reports, and goals are developed.

Maryland has a long history of racist transportation policies, from highways built through and dividing Black communities to the cancelation of the Red Line route, which would have provided urgently-needed access to jobs for residents in low-income, redlined communities in Baltimore. Only by being intentional about equity in the transportation sector can we begin to dismantle centuries of systemic racism.

Transportation equity will have a direct economic impact, making more jobs accessible, and also encouraging economic development in low-income communities, including those that are predominantly Black. It will have an environmental justice impact, reducing air pollution and heat islands that disproportionately affect Black communities due to historic injustices. An equitable transportation system will address racial disparities in employment, housing, health, environment, and education. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. supports HB 141.

Respectfully,

*Darryl Barnes*

Darryl Barnes  
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus  
of Maryland

*Melissa Wells*

Melissa Wells  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Legislative Black  
Caucus of Maryland