



February 16, 2022

Senate Bill 514

Transportation - Investment Program - MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act)

Senate Finance Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 514 – MARC Rail Service (Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act). This bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to establish individual investment programs to enhance certain rail lines and services operated by the Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail service. This bill also requires MTA to advance certain rail priority projects as part of the investment programs and conduct a MARC Cornerstone Plan Implementation Study.

MARC commuter train service operates three different lines that serve several Maryland counties, including Anne Arundel, and connect many of our suburban communities to Baltimore and Washington, DC. Anne Arundel County currently has three MARC stops in Odenton, Laurel, and BWI. However, service is slow, infrequent, and disconnected from the broader region. The investment programs in this bill will enable MTA to advance major upgrades and expansions on all three lines, including additional capacity, station improvements, and rail connections to our neighboring states.

SB 514 will also position the state to take advantage of federal funds for passenger rail made available through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in order to make these critical investments in our passenger rail system. This investment will create jobs, provide opportunities for our residents, and lay the groundwork for a more sustainable transportation system. Maryland is not currently prepared to compete for this historic federal funding, but SB 514 will get us on the right track.

It is too difficult for our residents to move around the state without a car. The plan set forth in this bill will make Maryland more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 514.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman
County Executive