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**BILL NO.:** SB 23

**TITLE:** Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses

**SPONSOR:** Senator Carter

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** January 26, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 23 – Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses. This legislation would require that State transportation plans, reports, and goals are developed with consideration for racial and disability equity.

Transit is a key public tool which provides access to critical resources for residents who cannot afford or obtain personal transportation. The Olszewski Administration was proud to launch The Loop last fall, a first-of-its kind public transit system in Baltimore County, because of its now realized potential to connect communities to growing industries at no cost to County residents. Public transit only works, however, if there is equitable access to it. Residents who have historically been excluded from the workforce often find that physical separation from employers, compounded by inadequate access to transportation, create systemic barriers to employment.

SB 23 is a strong step towards promoting equitable access to transit and furthers Baltimore County's workforce development priorities to connect those seeking employment to new opportunities. By requiring the State to evaluate its policies through an equitable lens, this legislation would support the County's efforts to bring public transportation to the residents who truly need it. With enhanced access to employment opportunities, economic growth in one region can bring positive change and empowerment to communities throughout the County and across the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 23. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).