

The Transportation Equity Act of 2022
SB 23
Testimony of Samuel Jordan,
President – Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC)

Madame Chair, and Members of the Committee, Senate Bill 0023:

- 1.** Promotes an approach to equity that recommends anticipation and prevention as the better strategies when compared to penalty and correction which have been the principal strategies in the past.
- 2.** The bill recognizes that Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that guarantees equal access and equity in transportation is not enforced at the state level. SB 0023 provides such enforcement.
- 3.** MTA has demonstrated the impunity state agencies enjoy when they do not comply with Title VI. MTA and the Governor ignored the Title VI complaint BTEC filed in 2015 and refused to be regulated. The former president closed the complaint for Governor Hogan.
- 4.** The bill's analyses would have prevented: a.) Cancellation of the Red Line; b.) The fifteen-month exposure of riders to derailment on the subway in 2018; and c.) Permanent 20% racially disparate cuts in core bus service proposed in September 2020.

Anticipation and prevention strategies protect the public in “public” transportation.

- 5.** The first-ever cross-modal comparisons found in SB 0023 would not have permitted the core bus service with its 83% Black ridership to shoulder the greatest burden of the proposed September 2020 cuts when there were no cuts proposed for the seaport, airport or the state highway administration modes and only modest, temporary cuts proposed for the MARC commuter rail service with its 65 – 70% white ridership.
- 6.** The bill also has major implications for matters of the environment and climate change. If, for example, MTA purchases zero emissions buses but puts them in service on routes serving mostly white passengers, this bill would require rejection of any such disparate distribution of the benefits of zero emission vehicles.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I urge you to report favorably on SB 0023 and thank you.