



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

January 26, 2022

**SB 23**

**Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 23 requires the Maryland Transportation Plan to include achieving equity in the transportation sector in the State transportation goals; requiring the State Report on Transportation to include certain measurable transportation indicators; requiring the State Department of Transportation to evaluate the transportation indicators to identify any racial disparities; requiring the Department to evaluate certain indicators to identify any impact on persons with disabilities.

The Conference supports legislation that recognizes the dignity of the human person in pursuit of the common good. Transit plans that help create a sustainable and economically viable region while assisting the transportation needs of the community, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, can be beneficial. Public transportation plays an important role by providing health and education solutions for families while at the same time realizing cost savings that, at times, can be significant. As stated in *Economic Justice for All: A Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy* “Government should assume a positive role in generating employment and establishing fair labor practices, in guaranteeing the provision and maintenance of the economy’s infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, harbors, public means of communication, and transport”. Senate Bill 23 seeks to identify the need for more equitable public transportation in the state of Maryland by analyzing the needs of our most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 23.