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Governor  
Aruna Miller  
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Secretary

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Room 121, House Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

**RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 876 – Baltimore Regional Transit Commission - Establishment**

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 876 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration. MDOT and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) have appreciated the collaboration with the bill sponsor to work towards the common goals of this bill which include, increased transparency, collaboration, and strategic planning.

Senate Bill 876 would establish the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission to comment on annual budget requests of the MTA, updates to the Central Maryland Regional Transportation Plan, annual reports, including the Capital Needs Inventory, and to perform other oversight and advocacy duties related to Baltimore region transit services. The Commission would be staffed by the Baltimore Metropolitan Commission (BMC); however, it would also require significant staff resources from MTA.

As drafted, some of the duties and responsibilities of the Commission outlined in Senate Bill 876 are duplicative of current efforts. For example, BMC staff currently participate in and review many MTA reports and planning efforts of regional significance. MTA regularly presents these efforts to the Baltimore Regional Transit Board (BRTB). The BMC also has an existing technical committee that reviews and coordinates on transit services proposed for the Baltimore region. MDOT, MTA, and BMC regularly convene efforts to gather information from transit riders and stakeholders regarding transit service in the Baltimore region.

Additionally, the draft Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) is presented annually to each jurisdiction in the State. This is drafted through inclusion of local priority letters, which are submitted beginning in April, and further comments continue to be received throughout the annual CTP Tour meetings in the fall. Lastly, in addition to MDOT submitting the Annual State Report on Transportation to the Legislature, MTA reports to the Legislature each year on its progress in implementing the Capital Needs Inventory, its progress in converting to Zero-Emission Bus, and the Capital Needs Inventory Report describing 10-year state of good repair needs and progress every three years.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 876.

Respectfully submitted,

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