

**Statement of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1300
HB 794
House Appropriations Committee
February 21, 2023**

ATU Local 1300 in Baltimore, representing more than 2,600 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), supports the establishment of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission as proposed in HB 794 with two amendments to the legislation.

ATU has participated in the Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup throughout the past year. Creating a BRTC to approve the MTA's budget for the Baltimore area and approve the Central Maryland Regional Transit plan will help foster transparency as we strive for effective and equitable transit in the region.

The ATU proposes a clarifying amendment to ensure representation from the union that represents frontline transit workers at the MTA on the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission established by HB 794.

Amending Section B(5) to read "*One nonvoting member from Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300*" is preferred but "*One nonvoting member who is an employee of the administration and is a member of the labor union representing the plurality of transit workers in the Baltimore metropolitan region, designated by the labor union.*" is also suitable.

Additionally, we propose that Section G(10) be amended to read:

"Convene subcommittees or other appropriate entities to gather information and suggestions from the Administration's frontline transit workers, nonprofit organizations, civil foundations, employers, and the transit riders regarding transit service in the Baltimore region;"

We otherwise support HB 794 as written, and look forward to collaborating as part of the BRTC.