



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 21, 2023

HB 341

Transportation - Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs and Transportation Improvement Programs - Equity Impacts

House Appropriations Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 341 requires the Department of Transportation to include in the statewide transportation improvement program analyses of how the transportation improvement program may impact low-income communities and minority communities and would require a metropolitan planning organization to include in a transportation improvement program analyses of how the transportation improvement program may impact low-income communities and minority communities.

The Conference supports legislation that recognizes the dignity of the human person in pursuit of the common good. Transit-oriented 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 a key role by providing health and education solutions for families while 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." House Bill 341 seeks to identify the need for more equitable public transportation in 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 House Bill 341.