



February 7, 2023

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 Taylor House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for House Bill 9—Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses.

This bill will require the Maryland Department of Transportation to collaborate with the Maryland Transit Administration to conduct both equity and cost-benefit analysis while also communicating with members and activists in affected communities. These steps must be taken before major service changes or reductions in a capital expansion project exceed transit equity thresholds. House Bill 9 also requires all plans, committees, and reports to include transportation equity issues.

Maryland has a long history of racist transportation policies, from highways built through and dividing Black communities to the cancelation of the Red Line route, which would have provided urgently-needed access to jobs for residents in low-income, redlined communities in Baltimore. Only by being intentional about equity in the transportation sector can we begin to dismantle centuries of systemic racism. Transportation equity will have a direct economic impact, making more jobs accessible, and also encouraging economic development in disinvested communities, including those that are predominantly Black. It will have an environmental justice impact, reducing air pollution and heat islands that disproportionately affect Black communities due to historic injustices. An equitable transportation system will address racial disparities in employment, housing, health, environment, and education. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 9.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland