

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

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January 31, 2023

Delegate and Committee Chair Kumar P. Barve
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: **Support** for HB0009, Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

We are writing in support of HB0009, the Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of HB0009, which will enable a proactive and participatory approach to equity in transit. This will ensure that changes in MDOT MTA service do not disproportionately affect transit-reliant populations. The history of MDOT MTA service changes, including the proposed service cuts in 2020 that would have severely cut service for predominantly poor and black communities in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, point to the need for the provisions contained in HB0009. These provisions are strongly aligned with the racial equity objectives of the 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan.

We thank the Delegates for their support of the 2022 version of this Bill, which passed but was vetoed by then-Governor Hogan. Passage of HB0009 will offer a strong signal of the House's commitment to transportation equity goals under the new administration of Governor Moore.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Sheila Ruth