



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 9

Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses

Date: February 2, 2023

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: Support

From: Julieta Rodrigo,

Urban & Community Resilience Manager

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 9 which requires that equity be considered, and communities be consulted, when developing State transportation plans, reports, and goals. It also adds representation from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to the advisory committee on state transportation goals and requires an equity analysis for major service changes and capital projects.

Transportation equity reduces pollution that would otherwise damage our climate and our waterways.

Maryland has committed to cut nitrogen pollution by 15% within the next five years and greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. At the same time, the state must ensure that residents, businesses and institutions have access to a variety of safe and dependable transportation choices. Robust and equitable public transportation, from light rail and metro to buses and rural shuttle service, provides residents with access to necessary resources like schools and grocery stores, while supporting goals to reduce carbon and nitrogen emissions that would otherwise impair our waterways and harm our climate. We applaud efforts to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and traffic congestion, as these have negative effects on the health of Maryland's residents and ecosystems, and front-line communities bear an unfair proportion of the resulting environmental harms.

Proactive planning is more effective than reactive response.

Equity should not be an afterthought. Rather, it should be the lens through which Maryland approaches all decisions that impact its residents and its natural resources. Through increasing representation and ensuring an equity review for potential service changes and capital projects, this bill will increase proactive decision-making within the State's plans. Advanced and equitable planning around transit prevents unsustainable development, promotes the preservation of natural resources and access to open spaces for all Marylanders. Increasing equity within Maryland's transportation system will benefit our state's economic and social well-being, as well as the health of the environment, including the Chesapeake Bay.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 9. For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.