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HB 9 Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses
FAVORABLE
House Environment and Transportation
February 2, 2023

Good Afternoon Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation and Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan, Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. As you know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in Maryland, encompassing over 850,000 members. **AARP MD support HB 9 Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses.** We thank Delegate Ruth for introducing this important legislation.

HB 9 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) beginning July 1, 2024, in collaboration with the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), to conduct a transit equity analysis, perform a cost-benefit analysis, consult with members and leaders of affected communities, and take specified actions based on the results of these activities before announcing (1) any service change that would constitute a major service change under specified federal guidelines or (2) any reduction or cancellation of a capital expansion project in the construction program of the Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP) that exceeds transit equity thresholds developed by MTA pursuant to the bill.

Transportation planning should be the collaborative process of determining how to move people and goods. Successful transportation planning leads to more effective, efficient, and equitable transportation systems. It also contributes to community revitalization and equitable economic and social outcomes.

AARP believes that state policy should adopt plans that enhance the mobility of all Marylanders. AARP also believes meaningful public input and participation must be incorporated into transportation planning decisions. This includes input from older adults, people with disabilities, and communities of color. In addition, ensuring that there are transportation options for Marylanders is a 2023 legislative priority for AARP Maryland. Transportation options allows access to key services and opportunities for all residents to participate in community activities.

AARP Maryland respectfully requests that the House Environment and Transportation Committee give a favorable report to HB 9. Thanks very much for your time and consideration. If you have questions, please contact Tammy Bresnahan tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451