

TO: The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Michael Huber
Director, State Affairs

DATE: February 2, 2023

RE: HOUSE BILL 9 – EQUITY IN TRANSPORTATION SECTOR - GUIDELINES AND ANALYSES

Johns Hopkins University and Medicine urges a favorable report on **House Bill 9 – Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses**. This bill requires that equity to be considered when developing certain transportation plans, reports, and goals. It requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to perform outreach to affected communities before public hearings or major proposed changes to the capital plan. It establishes the Commission on Transportation Equity to assist in developing policies and performance measures to ensure the State transportation system is equitable.

As the State’s largest private employer, with more than 53,000 Marylanders in our employ, Johns Hopkins knows that equitable investments in Maryland’s transportation system are critical to the strength and health of Maryland’s communities and the well-being of our workers. Our employees, students, patients, and visitors often rely on the transit system to get to work or school, to access healthcare, or to meet their needs. This bill will help enhance Maryland’s ability to invest in its transportation system where it can best benefit those who rely on it most.

Johns Hopkins urges the Budget and Taxation Committee to take action to advance Baltimore and the State of Maryland’s transit future by issuing a **favorable report on HB 9**.