

## Testimony Supporting SB19/HB9

### Senate Finance / House Environment and Transportation Committees

February 1 / February 2, 2023

#### Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned 42 organizations urge a favorable report on SB0019/HB0009, the Transportation Equity Act sponsored by Senator Jill Carter and Delegate Sheila Ruth. This legislature passed both the House and the Senate with flying colors in 2022, but was unfortunately vetoed by then-Governor Hogan. With your reiterated support in 2023, this legislation can set the Moore administration up for success in transportation planning and spending, establishing tools the administration can use to make data-driven decisions for equitable transportation in Maryland.

Maryland has a shamefully long history of racist transportation policies, from highways built through and dividing Black communities to the cancellation of the Red Line route, which would have provided urgently-needed access to jobs for residents in low-income, redlined communities in Baltimore and regional economy-transforming, transit-oriented-development (TOD). Equitable transportation will play a key role in dismantling systemic racism by:

- Increasing access to good jobs, schools, education, and food;
- Providing incentives for community economic development;
- Reducing smog, air pollution, and heat islands, which disproportionately impact Black communities

Only by being intentional about equity in the transportation sector can we begin to dismantle centuries of systemic racism.

Because many people with disabilities and many low-income households do not have access to cars, lack of access to other modes of transportation disproportionately harms them. Without access to transportation, people with disabilities continue to be alienated from the economic mainstream. People with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty in part due to difficulty accessing jobs, education and medical care. Because many individuals with disabilities have increased health care needs, isolation can have a profound impact on quality of life, health, and safety. The Transportation Equity Act requires data collection and analysis of the impact of transportation on people with disabilities, helping Maryland to build a more accessible and equitable future.

The Transportation Equity Act:

- Makes equity a primary goal in the Maryland Transportation Plan;

- Requires MDOT to annually report data on racial disparities and impact on persons with disabilities;
- Adds representatives from the Maryland State Conference NAACP and a transportation labor organization to the Attainment Advisory Committee;
- Requires transit equity analyses, cost benefit analysis, and outreach to affected communities before public hearings on any major service change;
- Increases transparency with annual reporting and service change analysis reporting

Equity should not be an afterthought or a box to check. Real people's lives are impacted by transportation. All Marylanders, regardless of race, income, zip code, or disability, should have an equal right to the benefits of a well-planned transportation system. We urge you to support SB19/HB9 to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

**Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition**

**Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition**, Samuel Jordan, President

**Clean Water Action**, Emily Ranson, Maryland Director

**Advance Maryland**, Alice Wilkerson, Executive Director

**Sentinels Of Eastern Shore Health**, Maria Payan, Co-Director

**Community Development Network of Maryland**, Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director

**Blue Water Baltimore**, Taylor Smith-Hams, Advocacy & Outreach Senior Manager

**Consumers for Accessible Ride Transportation**, Floyd Hartley, Chairperson

**Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights**, Nina Beth Cardin, Director

**Locust Point Community Garden**, Dave Arndt, Director

**Nuclear Information and Resource Service**, Timothy Judson, Executive Director

**Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**, Nanci Wilkinson, EJM Co leader

**The Nature Conservancy Maryland/DC**, Michelle Dietz, Director of Government Relations

**Maryland Legislative Coalition**, Cecilia Plante, Co-Chair

**Glen Echo Heights Mobilization**, Doris Yen H. Nguyen, Founder

**Maryland League of Conservation Voters**, Kristen Harbeson, Political Director

**Greenbelt Climate Action Network**, Kathy Bartolomeo, Volunteer

**Lower Shore Progressive Caucus**, Jared Schablein, Chair

**Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland**, Phil Webster, Lead Advocate,  
Climate Change

**Labor Network for Sustainability**, Bakari Height, Transit Equity Organizer

**National Aquarium**, Ryan Fredriksson, VP, Government Affairs

**Maryland Conservation Council**, Paulette Hammond, President

**Indivisible Central Maryland**, Liz Enagonio, Lead Advocate

**Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group**, Tom Taylor, Co-Chair

**HoCo Indivisible**, Virginia Smith, Member, Climate Action Team

**Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition**, Antoine M. Thompson, Executive  
Director

**Central Maryland Transportation Alliance**, Eric Norton, Dir. of Policy & Programs

**CASA**, Jose Coronado Flores, Research and Policy Analyst

**Maryland Latinos Unidos**, Carlos Orbe, Jr., Public Affairs Specialist

**Lyndhurst Community Association**, Cynthia Shaw, President

**Parent Advocacy Consortium**, Rich Ceruolo, Director Public Policy

**Echotopia LLC**, Diane Wittner, Principal

**1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East**, Ricarra Jones, Political Director

**Centro de Apoyo Familiar**, Walkiria Pool, President and Founder

**NAACP Maryland State Conference**, Staci Hartwell, Chair, Environmental and Climate Justice  
Committee

**No Boundaries Coalition**, Ashiah Parker, Executive Director

**Disability Rights Maryland**, Gabriel Rubinstein, Assistant Managing Attorney

**Climate Parents of Prince George's**, Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer

**HoCo Climate Action**, Liz Feighner, Steering Committee

**Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore**, Lindsay Keipper, Member, SURJ Baltimore  
Coordinating Committee

**Baltimore City Green Party**, Andy Ellis, Steering Committee member

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation**, Julieta Rodrigo, Urban and Community Resilience Manager