



**Transportation
Alliance**



Bikemore

March 2, 2023

**Testimony on HB 1027 –
Vehicle Laws – Bus Lane Monitoring Systems – Statewide Expansion
Environment & Transportation**

Position: Favorable With Amendments

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and Bikemore support HB 1027, with a suggested amendment to expand monitoring options.

Bus lanes can be an effective tool to move people more efficiently through our most crowded and economically productive corridors. Public education and enforcement are critical to the effectiveness of dedicated bus lanes. But bus riders regularly report that lanes are blocked by parked or standing cars and trucks. At the Transportation Alliance we recruited volunteers and conducted observations of bus lanes in fall 2018. During our observations 25% of the time a car or truck was parked in any given block of a bus lane. Buses are forced to merge into general travel lanes, causing delays and disrupting schedules.

However, better and consistent enforcement should reduce incidents of cars or trucks stopped or standing in bus lanes, lower travel times for bus trips, improve reliability for scheduled bus arrivals, and move more people per hour through our busiest corridors. A recent study from New York City shows camera enforcement on bus lanes increased bus speeds by up to 34% and increased ridership by up to 20%.

A potential way to expand monitoring and enforcement options would be to amend the bill to include transit agencies themselves or their police forces, such as MTA Police, as entities that could choose to operate bus lane monitoring systems.