

## Samuel Jordan Testimony on SB 412 - Maryland Rail Investment Act of 2023

Before Senate Committee on Finance Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Greetings and thank you, Chair Griffith, and the Committee. I am Samuel Jordan, President of the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition.

Our coalition insists that the Committee issue an unfavorable report on Senate bill SB 412.

We object to the bill's definition that misrepresents thirteen years of the successful development history of the Red Line project. The bill's language is subtle but deliberately deceptive.

The Red Line light rail project was fully approved, fully funded, and awarded a Record of Decision and a \$900 million federal grant in 2013. Its cancellation has created a plateau in the drive to improve transit equity and transit services. An abyss has befallen the Baltimore regional economy. Losses from the multiplier effect alone of the project's planned transit oriented development of \$3.0 to \$6.5 billion dollars have not been recovered. There has been no development project in the Hogan administration bearing such transformative economic power.

We also refer to the cancelled Red Line as the Stolen Red Line.

SB 412 creates a novel definition of the Red Line project we call the Bogus Red Line. **The bill's definition at Title 9 Subtitle 1 Section F** attributes the Red Line to the East-West corridor study of the Central Maryland Regional Transportation Plan process. The Stolen Red Line is not addressed in the Central Maryland Regional Transportation Plan nor in the East-West Corridor Study.

We propose a definition: **(F) "RED LINE" MEANS A RAIL TRANSIT FACILITY USING LIGHT RAIL that was approved, funded, and awarded a Record of Decision by the USDOT in 2013.**

It is ironic that a Maryland Rail Investment Act encases the Red Line in a definition that ignores investments secured by our Senators Cardin and Van Hollen and sabotages Governor Moore's pledge that he will "Get the Red Line done." Until the Red Line Final Environmental Impact Study is re-evaluated, Governor Moore can only be referring to the Stolen Red Line. The Bogus Red Line has never been federally approved requiring the project to start from scratch.

Chair Griffith and Committee, we urge you to issue an unfavorable report for SB 412. Thank you.