

Northeast Catholic Community

Hearing before the Senate Finance Committee
Maryland General Assembly
February 1, 2023

**Statement of Support (Favorable) on
SB 19, Equity in Transportation Sector Guidelines and Analyses**

The Northeast Catholic Community (NECC) consists of eight Catholic Churches in Northeast Baltimore. NECC would like to express its strong support for SB 19, Equity in Transportation Sector Guidelines and Analyses. As Catholics, we believe care for vulnerable groups and care for creation to be integral to our faith. In his 2015 Encyclical, entitled *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home, specifically addresses the inadequacy of public systems of transportation in our cities which leads to much suffering for those who depend on them.

Senate Bill 19 ensures that the concerns of those who depend on public transportation—including members of low-income communities and members of racial minorities—are considered when major decisions regarding transportation systems are made. This will increase the chances of our transportation systems serving all our citizens including the most vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for a favorable report of SB 19.