



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland



8601 Robert Fulton Dr
Suite 140
Columbia, MD 21046



1500 Union Avenue
Suite 2000
Baltimore, MD 21211



8835 Columbia 100 Pkwy
Suite P
Columbia, MD 21044



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

217 E Redwood Street
Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202



7000 Tudsbury Road
Windsor Mill, MD
21244

Senate Finance Committee

February 1, 2023

SB 19: Equity in Transportation Sector – Guidelines and Analyses

Position: Support

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is comprised of five statewide organizations that are committed to improving the opportunities and outcomes for Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As such, the DD Coalition supports SB 19.

Reliable and effective transportation is crucial for people with disabilities to participate in various aspects of daily life. The availability and accessibility of public transportation continues to serve as a significant barrier for people with disabilities to access and participate in employment, education, healthcare, and other community and social activities.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- This bill requires the Department of Transportation to consider ways to achieve equity in transportation, and requires that equity be a primary consideration in the development of State transportation plans and goals.
- It also requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to conduct transit equity analyses prior to the announcement or proposal of major transportation service changes.

WHY is this legislation important?

- It places a thorough and long-term lens onto one of the most critical issues facing people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities rely on affordable, accessible public transportation to access resources, such as urgent health services, food and other groceries, employment, and social and educational advancement opportunities.

Equity in transportation is an important disability rights issue. It is critical for people with disabilities and their ability to contribute economically, socially, and politically. Affordable transportation options for people with disabilities remain an ongoing challenge. Maryland must make more effort to ensure that people with disabilities have access to affordable and reliable transportation.

The DD Coalition supports SB 19 because it is a critical step to increase access to public transit for people with disabilities in Maryland.

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council,
RLondon@md-council.org