

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 107, “Vehicle Laws - Bus Lane Obstruction - Monitoring Systems Expansion and Workgroup (Better Bus Service Act of 2024)” — Support**

Carrie Kisicki, Montgomery County Advocacy Manager

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 107, the Better Bus Service Act of 2024. Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the leading organization advocating for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for our region to grow and provide opportunities for all. We urge you to support HB 107.

Providing fast and reliable bus service is an urgent racial and socioeconomic equity concern in Montgomery County, where the median household income of bus riders is approximately \$35,000 compared to a county median household income of \$110,000.

Improving bus service is also central to achieving our county and state climate goals, as attracting new riders to public transit through fast, frequent, reliable and convenient bus service will reduce travel by car and therefore carbon emissions.

A single vehicle obstructing a dedicated lane can easily slow down a trip for dozens of riders. Without the ability to enforce prohibitions against stopping or parking in dedicated bus lanes, riders in jurisdictions like Montgomery County do not experience the full benefit of these measures—and jurisdictions that choose to invest in dedicated lanes do not get the full value out of that investment.

Prohibiting unallowed stopping and parking in dedicated bus lanes, and allowing local jurisdictions to enforce this prohibition, will make bus service faster and more reliable for riders and allow jurisdictions to maximize the benefits of their investments in better service.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to support HB 107. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Carrie Kisicki*

Carrie Kisicki  
Montgomery County Advocacy Manager