



**Transportation
Alliance**

January 31, 2024

**Testimony on SB 70 –
Transportation – Change in Bus Service – Impacts Report –
Finance Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and Bikemore support Senate Bill 70, which addresses the important matter of transparency and public communication when the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) proposes service reductions or cancellations on its bus routes.

While it's important for MTA to maintain flexibility and it would be unreasonable to mandate that a bus route remain unchanged in perpetuity, it's critical that any changes be communicated openly with riders, especially those who have come to depend on the service.

The reporting requirements in SB 70 would help to ensure that riders, stakeholders, and public officials are aware of the potential implications of proposed service reductions. This approach aligns with the principles of open, transparent governance, empowers riders to understand the implications of proposed changes, and supports the public in commenting on the proposals reasonably and knowledgeably.

Senate Bill 70 represents a significant stride towards transparency, community involvement, and accountability in public transit decisions. We urge you to support the passage of this bill, as it not only safeguards the interests of riders but also upholds the principles of good governance.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for Senate Bill 70.