



Wes Moore
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Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

February 7, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 331 – Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of information for the Committee's consideration on Senate Bill 331.

Senate Bill 331 establishes the Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland, charged with reviewing funding for paratransit throughout Maryland, as well as the role that public-private partnerships (P3s) could play in addressing funding and service. MDOT is to staff the Task Force.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) provides Mobility services to people who, because of a disability, are functionally unable to get to a bus stop, wait unassisted at a stop or station, or board a bus or train by themselves. Mobility is a shared ride service offered from the first exterior door of a rider's home or pick up location to the first exterior door of their destination. Mobility is regulated by the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and provides service to individuals who qualify, whose origins and destinations are within three-fourths of a mile on each side of MTA's fixed route services. Additionally, the MTA's Office of Local Transit Support provides Federal and State funding and technical assistance to the Local Operating Transit Systems (LOTS), who also provide paratransit services to riders within their jurisdictions.

As required by Senate Bill 511/House Bill 596 (2023), the Maryland Transit Administration is charged with establishing and staffing the State Coordinating Committee for Health and Human Services Transportation (SCCHHST). This Committee is charged with examining the Statewide transportation needs of elderly individuals and those with a disability, as well as devising a 5-year plan that sets goals to help transportation-disadvantaged residents of the State access jobs, education and training programs, health care services, and other activities. While the work of the SCCHHST and the proposed Task Force is not identical, it is anticipated that the SCCHHST will review, discuss, and set goals for paratransit riders across the State. Many of the representatives identified as serving on the Task Force to Study Paratransit in Maryland are also named as serving on the SCCHHST; additionally, MTA has already identified the funding needed for the SCCHHST.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 331.

Respectfully submitted,

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