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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#/0432 - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding - Inflation Adjustment (Local Transit Sustainability Act)**

**TO:** Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0432, Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding - Inflation Adjustment (Local Transit Sustainability Act)**

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA) Statewide Transit Innovation Grant is a competitive grant program with the goal of supporting local efforts to improve transit reliability, improving access and connections to activity centers, and improving transit mobility options. The program seeks to fund cost-effective public transportation projects that reduce delays for people and improve connectivity between regional and economic population centers. Projects may incorporate bus, rail, or other transit modes.<sup>1</sup>

This bill seeks to ensure that the Grant Program accounts for inflation by increasing the funding to reflect the added costs due to that inflation. It accomplishes this by requiring that the amount that the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill for the Locally Operated Transit System Grant Program be adjusted for future fiscal years based on growth in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

This forward planning ensures that we continue existing cost-effective public transportation projects through funding at a minimum the level of service that is being provided. It demonstrates Maryland's commitment to creating integrated transportation systems that meet Marylander's needs both now and in the future.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0432**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/grants>