

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

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Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



HB 432 - Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding - Inflation Adjustment (Local Transit Sustainability Act)

House Appropriations Committee

Unfavorable

February 11, 2025

ATU Local 1300 represents over 3,000 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This includes bus operators, bus mechanics, rail operators, rail maintenance workers, and more. Our members keep Maryland moving every day.

It is not that surprising that a public transit union would support the expansion of public transit services. As a transit union that is older than many of the transit systems that ATU members work at today, we have seen good and bad approaches to the structure, funding, and approaches of different transit agencies. This puts us in the awkward position of fighting at every opportunity for expanded transportation trust fund revenue (TTF) and having to oppose this bill.

Put simply, we fear that mandated inflation-adjusted funding for Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) will further encourage the balkanization of transit in Maryland and further entrench privatization in the region. Many of our union sisters and brothers work at some of these systems. We have seen the Metro Washington region be split from a single MetroBus system into 14 different transit operators. We don't believe that Maryland should follow this approach. Removing the ability of the Maryland Department of Transportation and Maryland Transit Administration to make strategic decisions about LOTS funding prevents future discussions about consolidation of resources. During tight funding climates, bills like this should only be considered if paired with a direct pay for that doesn't eat into TTF revenue that may be needed for the expansion of larger systems. The fiscal note also glosses over that any future increases above the inflation adjustment reset the CPI baseline to a higher number.

Please do not misconstrue our position as being against expanding transit services, especially in areas that need them. We just believe that mandated appropriations like those proposed in this bill might go against our larger goals.

We urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 432.