



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 1463

February 25, 2025

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill HB 1463 - Transportation - Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act of 2025)

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1463.

HB 1463 extends the minimum appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) from its sunset in 2030 to 2040, through fiscal year 2040. In addition, the bill extends an appropriation for state of good repair needs from the TTF for MTA of \$450 million from Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2028; this would then increase to \$550 million for Fiscal Years 2030 through 2039.

The MTA provides critical services for Baltimore City residents, many of whom depend on the service as their primary mode of transport. Continued investment in the MTA's efforts to modernize will mitigate and potentially reduce the deferred maintenance backlog, improving efficiency and making the system more attractive through improved reliability, comfort, and quality of service. Furthermore, funding the maintenance of existing infrastructure will support ambitious plans to expand the transit system, therefore improving its coverage and functionality.

MTA's (2022) Capital Needs Inventory identified a need of \$500 million annually to maintain its infrastructure; this figure will only grow as aging infrastructure and equipment become obsolete and fail with increasing frequency. Supporting the needs of riders, 84% of whom are African-American, is a matter of transportation equity. Providing for state of good repair needs will accomplish this while allowing the MTA to keep costs in check through proactive maintenance.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 1463.