



Written Testimony Presented to the House Appropriations Committee

Hearing Date - January 28, 2025

House Bill 105 - Department of Transportation – Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Bonds – Light Rail Replacement Vehicles

Position – Support

Baltimore Regional Transit Commission

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang and distinguished Committee members, I am **Jon Laria**, testifying today in my role as Chair of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission (BRTC).

The BRTC was created by the Maryland General Assembly to provide oversight and advocacy for the Baltimore regional transit system, which is operated by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA).

If passed, House Bill 105 would demonstrate the General Assembly's continuing commitment to improving transit in the Baltimore region. This bill expands the types of projects that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) may fund using proceeds from bonds backed by future federal aid (typically known as Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds) to include the replacement of light rail transit vehicles and costs related to the replacement of the vehicles. These changes would provide necessary flexibility for MDOT to replace aging light rail vehicles and ensure the efficient and effective use of available transportation funding mechanisms.

Including light rail vehicle replacement among eligible uses is a practical step towards deploying available resources to upgrading public transit infrastructure. These changes will promote sustainable development, improve public access to transportation, and support economic growth in Maryland. Accordingly, I urge you to support House Bill 105 and help us achieve these important goals.

Thank you for your consideration.