



# Transportation Alliance

February 7, 2025

## **Testimony on HB 432 – *Local Transit Sustainability Act of 2025* – Appropriations Committee**

### **Position: Favorable with Amendments**

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance recommends amendments to HB 432, which indexes Maryland's annual investment in Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) to inflation.

We support the idea of indexing the annual investment in public transportation systems to inflation so that the buying power does not diminish over time. However, we are concerned that Governors and MDOT Secretaries tend to treat the annual investment in public transportation as fixed, and will respond to an increase in the investment in the LOTS by looking to cut the investment in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). We have similar concerns about the Metro Funding Modification Act of 2025 (HB 467, SB 384) which would apply a similar indexing to Maryland's annual contribution to WMATA. Therefore we recommend amending either or both bills to index Maryland's annual investment in public transportation to inflation rather than establishing various indexes for various public transportation systems in a piecemeal fashion.

We encourage a FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS report for House Bill 432.