

# Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

126 W. 25th Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218  
Telephone: 410-889-3566 Facsimile: 410-243-5541  
www.atu1300.org

**Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!**



## **HB 105 - Department of Transportation - Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Bonds - Light Rail Replacement Vehicles**

### **Favorable**

House Appropriations Committee  
January 28th, 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.

HB 105 provides MDOT more flexibility to use Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle Bonds (i.e. GARVEEs) to cover the light rail replacement program. Maryland statute dictates which projects GARVEE bonds can be used for, excluding the use sought in this bill.

In 2024, it was announced that MTA was at risk of forfeiting federal grants that supported the light rail replacement program if it did not have sufficient state funding for the project.<sup>1</sup> Luckily, the current FY 2026 budget proposal includes the necessary funding to complete the project if an additional \$420 million in transportation funding is approved.<sup>2</sup> More flexibility frees up other parts of the MTA budget to cover other essential needs.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 105.

---

<sup>1</sup> Jeff Morgan, "Budget woes threaten millions in funding for light rail." WMAR2 News. October 8, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel Zawodny, "Baltimore's light rail to survive cuts amid Maryland's budget gap." Baltimore Banner. January 15, 2025.