



## **Statement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689**

**SB 198 – Consolidated Transportation Program – Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2025)**  
January 27th, 2025

**TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee**

**FROM: Matthew Girardi, Political & Communications Director, ATU Local 689**

ATU Local 689 supports SB 198 and urges the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to issue a favorable report. This bill would be a great step in shining light on a critical process Local 689 applauds MDOT for it.

At Local 689, we represent over 15,000 transit workers and retirees throughout the Washington DC Metro Area performing many skilled transportation crafts for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), MetroAccess, Fairfax Connector, and DASH among others. Our union helped turn low-wage, exploitative transit jobs into transit careers. We became an engine for the middle-class of this region.

Building a transportation network that is safe, reliable, and accessible for Marylanders is of the utmost importance to Local 689. As such, we take a great interest in ensuring that the Chapter 30 prioritization process is doing right, especially by working class Marylanders and transit. For too long, that process has been unclear and confusing, frustrating advocates and government officials alike. SB 198 is a step in the right direction.

Specifically, SB 198 would clarify the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Chapter 30 prioritization process. This important process ensures that Maryland is prioritizing well thought, needed, and sustainable transportation projects. However, time and again, we have seen advocates, elected officials, and administrators asking for clarity on this process and how programs are selected.

We believe that SB 198 is a commonsense rewrite of the process that should make everyone better informed about potential outcomes. We fully agree with re-orienting our state's surface transportation goals around: (1) safety; (2) accessibility and mobility; (3) climate change and the environment; (4) social equity; (5) economic development; and (6) land use and transportation demand management. These are all key to building a transportation system that works for all Marylanders.

Local 689 thanks MDOT for introducing this important measure and urges the committee to issue a favorable report.