



January 29, 2024

Senate Bill 20

**Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding - Inflation
Adjustment (Local Transit Sustainability Act)**

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 20 – Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding - Inflation Adjustment (Local Transit Sustainability Act).

Senate Bill 20 would add an annual inflation adjustment to Locally Operated Transit System (LOTS) Grant Program funding in order to align funding closer with annual costs. LOTS is critical mandatory funding for locally operated transit systems across the state, and benefits the millions of Marylanders who rely on transit for their daily commutes and provide for their families.

SB20 builds off of progress made in 2023, when the General Assembly passed House Bill 1125, codifying the LOTS Grant Program within the Department of Transportation. This legislation expanded Maryland's access to state and federal resources and provided an additional funding stream for local jurisdictions.

Anne Arundel County is the fourth largest county in the state, and transit plays a major role in how we address our local economy and economic growth. Effective routes give residents and out-of-county Marylanders access to county jobs, quality healthcare, and our robust tourism industry. Mandating an \$80 million appropriation in the annual budget allows the County to maintain fare free transit line operations such as the Gold Line Extension and Crofton Connector, and ensure these systems have the resources to progress in the future.

Marylanders deserve efficient transit systems that keep communities connected and provide economic opportunity. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 20.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive