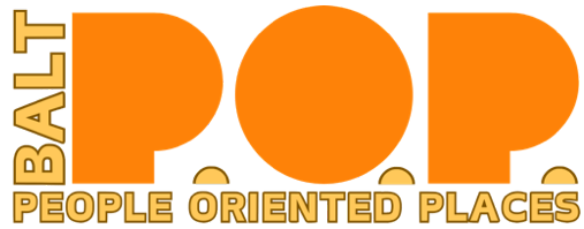


Bill: SB0881

Bill Title: Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities

Position: **Unfavorable**



Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

As a group which views public transit as being a preferred mode of transportation for maximizing the appeal and productivity of Baltimore and its closest-in suburbs, we oppose SB0881.

Over the course of the past year, we have been heartened by the first-year work of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission (BRTC). We would like to see the BRTC eventually give way to a full-blown Baltimore Regional Transit Authority (BRTA).

On the surface, it would appear that this is what this bill accomplishes. However, the result here would not be a “BRTA”. It is critical to note that this bill would result in the creation of a Baltimore Region **Transportation** Authority, not a Baltimore Region **Transit** Authority.

The Baltimore region already has the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board, the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Baltimore region. We don’t see the need for the creation of a similarly transportation-focused (as opposed to transit-focused) entity.

To be clear, the tax-issuance and bond-issuance powers that would be afforded such an entity would be unique for the region, and the funneling of revenues yielded by those issuances directly back to the region would be welcome. If that entity was specifically **transit**-focused instead of being broadly **transportation**-focused, we would most likely be in favor of the bill. However, such a transit-oriented focus does not appear to be on the radar for this bill, so we find ourselves firmly opposed to it.

We hope the committee finds these points helpful and convincing and we urge its members to **vote against SB0881**. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity for us to testify on this legislation.

[BaltPOP - Baltimoreans for People-Oriented Places](#)