

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



*Queen
Anne's
County*

County Commissioners:

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Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
J. Patrick McLaughlin, District 2
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3
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Catherine Riggs Willis, LMSW, Director

Bill: Senate Bill 20: Maryland Transit Administration - Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of Queen Anne's County in support of Senate Bill 20, which would increase funding for Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) throughout our state.

Queen Anne's County – County Ride is public transportation that offers both deviated fixed route and door to door service. We service all of Queen Anne's County along with routes that go to Chestertown in Kent County, Easton in Talbot County and Annapolis in Anne Arundel County. Our ridership is made up of 30% work force rides, 40% medical rides and we have 60% senior ridership.

We make mobility a reality for our customers. Unfortunately, funding for these program have already been cut in the aftermath of COVID-19. As we recover from the pandemic we are being called upon to provide more responsive service to more people while also beginning the transition to low and zero emissions technology.

State support for local transit is critical to ensure our goals of quality service, environmental protection, and equity are reached. As state funding has stagnated or decreased, our local matches for state and federal funding have taken on a greater and greater proportion of funding. Inflation has particularly hit our industry hard, with prices for vehicles increasing 30-35% and the need for increased driver salaries to remain competitive. We need predictability in state funding streams in order to plan how to best serve the customers in our communities.

We fully support Senate Bill 20's efforts to increase support for the mobility of the citizens and communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Steve Palmer
Transit Administrator
Queen Anne's County, County Ride

