

Subject: Favorable: Local Transit Sustainability Act

Date: January 29, 2025

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

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[President@nfbmd.org](mailto:President@nfbmd.org)

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

The National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Budget and Taxation Committee to definitely vote in favor of SB00 20, a bill that provides for the long-term financial sustainability of transit and paratransit.

One of the core beliefs of the National Federation of the Blind and the Maryland Chapter is the full integration of the blind into society. One of the best means to reach this goal is to have public transit and paratransit that is reliable and prompt. Blind people depend on both para- and public transit for employment, medical appointments, religious services, shopping, and attending social activities. In the past, this transportation has not been reliable or prompt. This bill is an important step to reverse these patterns. These methods of transportation also provide assistance to the elderly and can alleviate loneliness, one of the great problems in today's society.

Please vote in favor of SB 0020. It will help to make good transportation a reality.

Should you have questions, please contact me at [President@nfbmd.org](mailto:President@nfbmd.org) or at 443-426-4110.