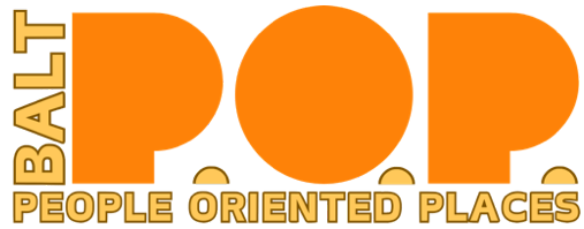


Bill: HB0206

Bill Title: Vehicle Laws - Bus Obstruction  
Monitoring Systems and Bus Stop Zones

Position: **Favorable**



Members of the House Environment and Transportation 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 support HB0206.

We put a lot of money toward our public bus system, as well we should. Every \$1 invested in public transportation tends to generate \$4 in economic returns. [1] But, in order to realize those returns, we need to allow the system to operate smoothly. To that end, it makes complete sense that **bus** lanes and **bus** loading zones be reserved and prioritized for use by **buses**.

To be honest, we're surprised that the provisions of this bill that make it illegal to obstruct a bus loading zone or bus lane aren't already in place. What's the motivation for allowing privately owned/operated trucks and automobiles to use our publicly-financed infrastructure as free parking - at the cost of impairing the performance of our bus system?

People need the bus to arrive on-time and get them to their destinations predictably and reliably. Allowing automobiles to obstruct the movement of our buses in those portions of the right-of-way that are **reserved** for those buses negatively impacts the productivity of thousands of people living in the Baltimore region.

The enforcement mechanism that this bill goes on to extend to our bus loading zones is the next logical step.

This bill is a simple, no-cost way to improve the performance of our public transit system.

We hope the committee finds these points helpful and convincing and we urge its members to **vote in favor of HB0206**. Thank you for your efforts and the opportunity for us to testify on this legislation.

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

References:

[1] Maryland Transit Administration. "MDOT MTA Encourages Commuters to Get on Board during 'Take Transit Week,' April 22-26". Apr 22, 2019.

<https://www.mta.maryland.gov/articles/238>