



Chair Marc Korman
and Members, Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 12, 2025

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Maryland Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance sustainability and equity in housing, land use, and transportation throughout Greater Washington and beyond. **GGWash strongly supports House Bill 517, the MARC Rail Authority Act of 2025.**

This bill would create a MARC Rail Authority, separate from the Maryland Transit Administration, with its own executive director and board appointed by the House Speaker and Senate President. Their responsibility would be to manage the existing commuter rail system and its expansion, with funding coming from existing appropriations to MARC service.

As it's currently set up, the MTA plays double duty: it's a statewide transit agency that's responsible for running local and commuter service. One consequence is that efforts to expand MARC service—like running more trains, and carrying out the infrastructure improvements needed to run more trains—are frequently set aside in favor of other priorities.


We're missing the opportunity to give people faster, more reliable trips. I used to live in Rockville and commuted to Silver Spring on the MARC Brunswick Line. This trip is scheduled to take between 12 and 16 minutes, which would be hard if not impossible to beat in a car at any time of day. Yet that service only runs in one direction at rush hour. A dedicated MARC Authority would provide the momentum needed to expand service so more people can use it.

The MARC Rail Authority Act is a small step to ensuring that Maryland's transit system works better for everyone. We ask the Environment and Transportation Committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed
Maryland Policy Director

The Washington, DC region is great  and it can be greater.