



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

TO: House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Department of Information Technology
RE: House Bill 517- Transportation - Maryland Area Rail Commuter Rail Authority - Establishment (MARC Rail Authority Act of 2025)
DATE: February 14, 2025
POSITION: Support with Amendments

The Honorable Marc Korman
House Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Korman,

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) supports House Bill 517- Transportation - Maryland Area Rail Commuter Rail Authority - Establishment (MARC Rail Authority Act of 2025) with amendments. While we recognize the intent of this legislation to establish the Maryland Area Rail Commuter (MARC) Rail Authority and promote efficient rail service, we oppose the inclusion of the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) as the entity responsible for information technology (IT) support under this bill.

DoIT recommends amending the bill to designate the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) as the entity responsible for providing IT support for live streaming the MARC Rail Authority meetings.

MDOT has an IT staff more than capable to handle this task and is already well-integrated into the operational needs of MARC services. Since the Secretary of MDOT will serve as Chair of the MARC Rail Authority, it is logical for MDOT to oversee the IT support needed for this new entity. This alignment will streamline operations, reduce interdepartmental dependencies, and leverage MDOT's existing knowledge of MARC's infrastructure.

Assigning DoIT to provide IT support would introduce unnecessary complexity. It would require DoIT to charge MDOT for services, adding administrative burdens and costs that could be avoided by utilizing MDOT's existing IT resources. Keeping IT responsibilities within MDOT ensures a more efficient and cost-effective approach.



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Katie Savage | Secretary

We respectfully request that Section 7–1309(B) be amended to state:

“The Maryland Department of Transportation shall provide the technical staff, support, and equipment necessary to livestream the open meetings of the MARC Rail Authority and fulfill other IT-related functions required by this Act.”

This amendment ensures the efficient implementation of the MARC Rail Authority’s objectives while maintaining DoIT’s focus on its core statewide responsibilities. We believe this adjustment will provide a more practical and cost-effective approach for supporting the MARC Rail Authority’s IT needs.

Thank you for considering this testimony. We urge the committee to amend the bill as suggested to reflect these concerns.

Best,

Melissa Leaman
Acting Secretary
Department of Information Technology