

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1300

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Proudly representing the transit workers of the MTA!



HB 695 - Repair the Transportation Trust Fund Act House Ways & Means Committee Unfavorable February 11, 2025

ATU Local 1300 represents over 3,000 transit workers at the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This includes bus operators, bus mechanics, rail operators, rail maintenance workers, and more. Our members keep Maryland moving every day.

We oppose the “Repair the Transportation Trust Fund Act” because it does not do what it claims to do. Pre-emptive prohibitions on vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax are not going to balance the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). This bill not only bans VMT proposals, but bans efforts to study or pilot VMT approaches.

It is clear that the TTF needs more revenue. We fully agree with that premise, but the way to do this is not by trying to shake down MTA riders for every dollar they have. HB 695’s proposal to mandate 35% farebox recovery is wildly out of step with transit trends in the country. Most systems are realizing that the key to strong ridership is expanding frequent and reliable service. High fares will be a barrier to growing ridership and ensuring that the most people can benefit from the state’s investments.

The goal of the state’s transportation system is to get people where they need to go. It is not to be a revenue generation arm of the state. This bill doesn’t get people where they need to go and definitely doesn’t solve the fiscal problems with the TTF.

We urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on HB 432.