



Testimonial Letter to the Maryland Ways and Means Committee Honorable Vanessa Atterbury, Chair

January 22, 2025

Thank you Delegate Atterbury and the Ways and Means Committee for your support of economic and neighborhood development throughout Maryland. I'm writing in support of House Bill-0258, which enables the continued operation of the West North Avenue Development Authority. I am writing on behalf of the National Transportation Center (NTC) at Morgan State University, a distinguished research institution focused on disseminating high-impact technologies that support transportation equity in the region.

The NTC and WNADA share a fundamental commitment to equity, accessibility, and community-centered development in Baltimore. Through our ongoing collaboration, we have witnessed firsthand how WNADA successfully bridges the gap between community needs, technical innovation, and implementation. Their partnership has enabled us to deploy pedestrian safety technologies developed by NTC researchers along West North Avenue, ensuring that tools created in our laboratories directly improve lives on Baltimore's roadways. Indeed, WNADA's proven ability to coordinate among academic institutions, community organizations, and government agencies has been instrumental in advancing a variety of projects that enhance mobility, safety, and economic opportunity along the North Avenue corridor.

I urge the committee to support HB-0258 and oppose any sunset provision that would terminate WNADA's operations in 2026. The revitalization of West North Avenue requires sustained, long-term commitment. Our experience implementing pedestrian safety technologies has shown that meaningful infrastructure improvements require multi-year planning, community engagement, and implementation phases. Prematurely ending WNADA's mandate would jeopardize both existing projects and future initiatives that are essential for the corridor's transformation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this written testimony and for considering these matters. I would welcome any questions about our partnership with WNADA or the importance of sustained investment in West Baltimore's transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Dr. Masoureh Jeihani, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Jeihani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Director, The National Transportation Center
Morgan State University