
February 19, 2026

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

RE: Letter of Support with Amendments – House Bill 733 – Maryland Transit Administration – Fixed-Route Transit Services – Announcements

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully submits the following letter of support, with amendments, for House Bill 733.

HB 733 would require the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to provide real-time audible and text-based announcements for all stops on all fixed-route transit services.

MTA appreciates the intent of HB 733 and efforts to support riders with hearing and vision challenges. While the vast majority of MTA's vehicles already come equipped with real-time audible and text-based announcements required under the bill, some of MTA's older buses and MARC trains lack the visual message boards needed for text-based announcements. Installing the necessary equipment on these older vehicles under the timeline would be costly and impractical.

Notwithstanding these challenges, MTA remains committed to providing an inclusive and accessible riding experience for all passengers by phasing out the use of vehicles that are not fully equipped with audible and text-based announcements. MTA proposes amending HB 733 to prohibit the agency from entering into any new procurement contracts after October 1, 2026, that do not have real-time audible and text-based announcement capabilities.

MTA is committed to engaging in discussions with the bill sponsor and other stakeholders on ways to improve the ridership experience for those with hearing and vision disabilities.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the committee consider this information and amendment proposal during its deliberation on House Bill 733.

Respectfully submitted,

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