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BILL NO.: **HB 1344**

TITLE: Maryland Transit Administration – Locally Operated Transit Systems – Study

SPONSOR: Delegate Young

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT with Amendments**

DATE: March 5, 2026

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS with Amendments** House Bill 1344 – Maryland Transit Administration – Locally Operated Transit Systems – Study. This legislation calls for a study of the Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) throughout the State of Maryland.

As the third largest jurisdiction in Maryland, Baltimore County faces many challenges and opportunities on transportation. Yet, Baltimore County has seen limited funding, especially as it pertains to LOTS. Previously, there was no formula utilized to calculate funding for LOTS throughout the State. Instead, the same funding levels were received based upon the prior years' allocation, despite changes in service and population. This study will look at the cost shares, ridership and historical cost increases of existing locally operated transit systems.

Baltimore County requests an amendment for the study to also account for the entire population of the local jurisdiction to allow for growth of transit.

The Towson Loop is a prime example of how the current formula and calculation for LOTS funding places Baltimore County at a disadvantage. The formula considers the following LOTS service and service area factors:

- Boardings (30%)
- Revenue Vehicle Miles (30%)
- Revenue Vehicle Hours (30%)
- Population living in poverty within LOTS service area (10%)

Being counted as only the population of Towson prevents growth to serve the entire population of Baltimore County. The County presently has 844,000 residents. Additionally, the poverty rate of 9% is only being applied to the population of Towson which compounds the calculation issues.

Baltimore County has conducted studies to expand the LOOP Circular Model to other dense populations in the County but has no State funding assistance to do so. Other areas studied include Owings Mills, Catonsville and Dundalk/Tradeport Atlantic.

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Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE with Amendments** report on House Bill 1344 from the House Environment and Transportation Committee. For more information, contact Kayenda Twesigye, State Legislative Officer for Government Affairs at ktwesigye@baltimorecountymd.gov.