Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Usherla DeBerry
Director

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

SUBJECT: Letter of Information on House Bill 0733 - Maryland Transit Administration - Fixed-Route Transit Services - Announcements

HEARING DATE: 2/19/26

Greetings Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) respectfully submits this letter of information regarding House Bill 733, sponsored by Delegate Guyton.

HB 0733 would require the Maryland Transit Administration to provide real-time audible and text-based announcements for all stops and critical service information on fixed-route transit services. This legislation advances accessibility, safety, and equitable access to public transportation for Maryland residents.

Reliable, multimodal communication in transit systems is essential. Visual announcements ensure that Deaf and Hard of Hearing riders have meaningful access to stop information, route changes, and emergency updates. Audible announcements likewise support riders who are blind or have low vision. These systems improve safety, reduce confusion, and promote independence for all passengers.

At the same time, ODHH urges caution in passing legislation that significantly increases expenditures. Any legislation that increases spending should include specific, identified, and sustainable funding offsets. For that reason, ODHH supports amendments offered by the

Maryland Department of Transportation to help defray costs while still achieving the policy objective of improving accessibility and communication equity.

With the inclusion of fiscally responsible amendments, ODHH respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 0733.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to accessibility and responsible governance. Please feel free to contact our office if we may provide additional technical assistance.
Sincerely,

Director Usherla DeBerry
Director
Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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