

MICHELE GUYTON
Legislative District 42B
Baltimore County

—
Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3793
800-492-7122 Ext. 3793
Michele.Guyton@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 733. This bill requires MTA buses and MARC trains to provide real-time audible and text-based announcements for all stops and critical service information on fixed-route transit. By ensuring both clear audio announcements and reliable visual displays, this legislation will make Maryland's public transportation system more accessible to riders who are blind, low vision, deaf, or hard of hearing. It will also ensure that Maryland is in compliance with federal ADA requirements.

Under the ADA, fixed-route transit providers must ensure that passengers with disabilities have equivalent access to information about stops, routes, and service changes. This includes audible announcements of upcoming stops, transfer points, and rider-requested stops, along with visual displays that convey the same information in text form. Vehicles must be equipped so that announcements are clearly audible and visible from all passenger areas. These standards are designed to create a transit system that is predictable, reliable, and fully accessible to all riders, not just those without disabilities.

It is easy to overlook the importance of announcements and displays, but they are essential to a truly accessible transit system. Riders need to know where they are, what stop is next, and when service changes occur. Audio announcements communicate route numbers, destinations, transfer points, and disruptions. Visual displays provide the same critical information in text form, ensuring that riders who are deaf or hard of hearing are not left without updates. Together, they create a system that is clear, predictable, and usable for everyone.

Unfortunately, announcements and displays on these systems are inconsistent and sometimes absent, forcing riders to rely on guesswork or navigation apps, for those who have access to cellular devices. People with disabilities depend on affordable public transportation to work, attend medical appointments, shop for groceries, and stay connected to their families and communities. Real-time, accessible communication increases independence, safety, and confidence for all riders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delegate Michele Guyton".

Delegate Michele Guyton, District 42B