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March 5, 2026

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

***RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 1344 – Maryland Transit Administration - Locally Operated Transit Systems - Study***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1344 and submits the following information for the committee's consideration.

HB 1344 requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to complete a study of the State's Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS), including information on cost-sharing, ridership, and historical cost increases. The legislation requires MTA to identify best practices for funding and governance and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and relevant committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2026.

Presently, MTA manages several funding programs that are available to transportation operators throughout the State. These programs support both public transportation and specialized transportation services. MTA's Office of Local Transit Support provides a range of technical assistance services to the LOTS operating in Maryland, including federal and State regulatory compliance, operations, management, planning, and training. A county's LOTS services vary based on jurisdiction size and population density. Some jurisdictions operate extensive fixed-route service, while others provide demand-response service that offers door-to-door transportation.

MTA appreciates the intent of this legislation and is committed to working with the sponsor to explore all options for completing this study. MTA is able to undertake the study required by House Bill 1344 utilizing existing resources. While most of the data required can be obtained easily, identifying best practices for funding and governance may be difficult to provide within the current timeline.

MDOT respectfully requests that the committee consider this information as it deliberates on House Bill 1344.

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Respectfully submitted,

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