



Letter of Support for HB 1344

Hearing Date – March 5, 2026

House Bill 1344 -- Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, I am Jon Laria, Chair of the Baltimore Regional Transit Commission (BRTC), submitting this Letter of Support for HB 1344 on behalf of the BRTC.

The BRTC was created by the Maryland General Assembly to provide oversight and advocacy for the Baltimore regional transit system, operated by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), and to ensure that diverse stakeholder perspectives are represented in agency decisions. The BRTC includes representatives from local government, transportation, industry, business, transit riders, transit advocates, labor, and the Moore-Miller Administration.

The BRTC submits this Letter of Support regarding HB 1344, which requires the MTA to study all locally operated transit systems (LOTS) statewide and report on their funding, costs, ridership, and best-practice governance models to inform future policy decisions. LOTS are an essential part of our regional transit system and optimizing their operations will only increase benefits to current and potential riders, as well as the State's return on investment.

By requiring detailed cost-share analysis, 10-year cost growth trends, and cross-jurisdictional comparisons, HB 1344 will compel the production of a standardized, statewide dataset that currently does not exist, and which will serve as an important baseline for use in future legislative, policy, and program action.

The BRTC supports HB 1344 and the information it will provide the General Assembly to identify solutions that improve efficiency, reduce costs, and strengthen our transit service.

Accordingly, the BRTC respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 1344.
