

March 31, 2026

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

***RE: Letter of Support with Amendments – Senate Bill 936 – Vehicle Laws - Bus Obstruction
Monitoring Systems and Bus Stop Zones***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully submits the following letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill 936.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and the Baltimore City Department of Transportation have partnered to plan, design, and install approximately 17 miles of dedicated bus lanes throughout MTA's Core Bus service area. These lanes minimize traffic delays for buses, increase transit speed and service reliability, reduce merging and yielding conflicts between buses and other vehicles, and can serve as a path for emergency responders.

SB 936 expands the purview of bus facilities eligible for automated enforcement to include bus stop zones and makes relevant technical changes consistent with this addition. While we believe the bill sponsor's intent is to keep bus stops free of obstructions, SB 936 includes new exemption language not present in prior introductions. As written, the bill allows exemptions for stopping in a bus lane for any vehicle loading or unloading passengers, or for a vehicle that has activated its hazard lights. In practice, these exemptions make it legal for any driver to obstruct the bus lanes, regardless of reason, so long as they have their hazard lights on.

MTA is grateful that the committee addressed the agency's concerns in the House version of the bill, HB 1113, and we respectfully request that SB 936 be conformed to HB 1113, which removes the exemptions and clarifies that any stopping or standing in the bus lane is prohibited. MTA looks forward to continuing meaningful engagement with all stakeholders to ensure the safety and accessibility of bus stops.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information during its deliberation of Senate Bill 936 and ensure that a favorable report includes MDOT's suggested amendments

Respectfully submitted,

Jalen Sanders
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Transit Administration
443-810-4461

Matt Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

