



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Delegate Michele Guyton, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 2/26/2026
RE: HB916 - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities

The MLLC supports HB916 - Transportation - Regional Transportation Authorities

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB916.

Maryland faces persistent transportation funding shortfalls that limit the State's ability to address regional congestion, aging infrastructure, and growing transit needs. Current funding mechanisms often lack the flexibility to support region-specific transportation solutions. By establishing regional transportation authorities with independent revenue streams, this bill creates a mandatory framework for coordinated, long-term transportation planning and investment. Improved transportation infrastructure would help residents travel to school and work more efficiently, reduce delays, strengthen local businesses through increased accessibility, and support job creation through transportation-related projects and development.

For the Latino community this bill is particularly pertinent as Latino's rely heavily on public transportation, yet face considerable challenges. In Baltimore, Latino and Black Marylanders make up 86% of bus ridership however, public transit can be delayed and unreliable, causing riders to be late to work, medical appointments, and other important life events¹. Additionally, low-income, Latino neighborhoods are more likely to be affected by traffic congestion and air pollution causing life-long health effects such as asthma². Regional transportation authorities, such as the ones proposed in this bill, would be able to analyze the transportation issues plaguing different Maryland regions to propose solutions for Latino and other communities.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB916.

¹ WYPR. City students face long public transit commutes to school. 30 Dec. 2021.

² [American Lung Association. Air Pollution Exposure in Hispanic and Latino Communities. 21 Sept. 2022.](#)