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HB 733 Maryland Transit Administration - Fixed-Route Transit Services - Announcements
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 19, 2026
FAVORABLE

Chair Korman and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 733. My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland. Representing nearly 850,000 members, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state. We support HB 733, and thank Vice Chair Guyton for introducing this important legislation.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering people to live their best lives. We advocate on key issues affecting families, including health care, livable communities, retirement planning, and protection from financial abuse.

As we strive to create age-friendly communities, it is essential that we prioritize accessible, reliable transportation for older Marylanders and individuals with disabilities.

HB 733 is a simple, practical, and deeply impactful bill that strengthens Maryland's commitment to accessible, age-friendly, and equitable public transportation. The bill requires the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to provide real-time audible and text-based announcements of all stops and other critical information across all fixed-route transit services.

These announcements are essential for older adults who rely heavily on public transit to remain independent and connected to their communities. For many, age-related vision or hearing changes make real-time stop announcements essential for safe navigation. Clear audible and text-based cues remove barriers to using transit confidently.

Accessible announcements are also a universal public good that assist riders navigating an unfamiliar route, visitors and tourists, people carrying groceries, people managing strollers, distracted riders, and even riders in crowded situations where navigation cues are obstructed.

HB 733 aligns with best practices in age-friendly transportation planning. Age-friendly communities prioritize clarity and accessibility in public infrastructure. Statewide implementation of standardized audible and text-based announcements is a smart, low-cost way to advance Maryland's broader goals of enabling residents to age in place and maintain full community participation.



This bill reflects good policy; it is simple, actionable, and centered on the well-being and dignity of Marylanders across all ages and abilities. In conclusion, we strongly support HB 733 and urge the committee to issue a favorable report.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at swestrick@aar.org or by calling 410-310-0374.