

## HB 733 Maryland Transit Administration - Fixed-Route Transit Services – Announcements

HB 733 requires real-time audible and text-based announcements that announce all stops and other critical information on all fixed-route transit services. While some MTA buses or MARC trains provide some audible and text-based announcements, the information is far from being consistent or not available at all. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed almost 36 years ago and still individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing are discriminated against in the use MTA's fixed route transit services because of the lack of text-based announcements. Likewise, someone with a vision impairment needs an audible system to navigate successfully on MTA's system. Why is Maryland so far behind other states or many European countries in using the available technology to assist individuals with disabilities to navigate the Maryland Transportation system.

My daughter, who is profoundly deaf, has used the MARC train system for over 25 years and has struggled with knowing where or why the train was stopping. Whereas the hearing person was able to hear the announcements. This

discriminatory practice needs to be corrected so that all riders have equal access to Maryland's transportation services.

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