



## Fund Maryland's Transit System!

HB 368 | SB 424

Healthy public transit systems are essential for our state's economy and the environment. However, Maryland's transit system, MTA, is facing a large funding cliff. We need to properly fund MTA so Marylanders can safely and reliably travel to their essential destinations each day.

### Did You Know?

- Marylanders throughout the state rely on the MTA to get to work, go to school, visit their doctors, and enjoy recreation.** MTA operates local buses, commuter buses, light rail, MARC, and paratransit, and provides funding to locally operated transit systems in every Maryland county, Baltimore City, Annapolis, and Ocean City.
- The MTA system is not working properly now. Only 60% to 70% of buses arrive on time since BaltimoreLink. Communities of color, persons with disabilities, and low-income communities have disproportionately less access to reach their critical destinations each day. The MTA's 2019 Capital Needs Inventory identifies over \$2 billion in unfunded essential system maintenance and critical enhancements over the next decade.
- Transportation is the #1 contributor to climate pollution in Maryland and the U.S. The miles being driven in gas and diesel-powered vehicles is increasing. **Robust public transit systems reduce traffic congestion and cut climate and other air pollution.** Public transit (including electric buses), and electric cars and walkable/bikeable communities, are key to addressing the climate crisis.



## What is the cost of doing nothing?

- Even later and **less reliable** buses, trains, and Mobility paratransit. This results in riders arriving late to work, which costs their employers money and can lead to loss of jobs. MTA buses **break down twice as much** as buses in other major Northeast cities, and the Metro subway and Central Light Rail recently have undergone emergency shutdowns lasting weeks. In the last two years MARC riders have experienced more disruptions and delays. Some months trains only arrive 74% on time. Riders can miss dialysis or health appointments or may be stranded when paratransit is late or fails to appear.
- **Unsafe and unhealthy** conditions for transit workers and riders.
- Years of delay in the ability to expand the system.

## What does the bill do?

**The Transit Safety and Investment Act** will avert MTA's funding cliff by providing an average annual increase of **\$123 million** for MTA capital needs for the next six years.

### How will funding help keep the system running?

It will help maintain MARC safety systems, bus shelters, buses, light rail and subway tracks, MARC switches, and more.

### What will the funding help improve?

It will improve access to MARC and bus stations, expand bus shelters, and promote sustainability efforts such as including EV charging at Baltimore metro and MARC stations, and adding rooftop solar at bus depots.

The Central Maryland region is developing a 25-year plan for more and better public transit. To do this, we first must fix the existing system now!



### For More Information:

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**#FundMDTransit**

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