



## Save Maryland's Transit System!

HB0114 | SB 0199

Strong public transit systems are essential for our state's economy and the environment. However, Maryland's transit system, MTA, is facing a maintenance backlog that threatens its ability to operate. MTA must receive funding so that Marylanders can safely and reliably travel to their essential destinations each day. 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.

### Did You Know?

- More than **1 in 3 transit riders in the state work in essential job services**. Hospital and health care workers (the largest share of riders), grocery store workers, childcare professionals, and nursing care staff and other employees use transit to get to work everyday. Marylanders throughout the state also rely on the MTA to get to work, go to school, visit their doctors, and enjoy recreation.
- MTA's subway, light rail, bus and MARC commuter rail vehicles each have **one of the worst breakdown rates** in the country. 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.
- **Transportation is the #1 contributor to climate pollution** in Maryland and the U.S. Robust public transit systems reduce traffic congestion by reducing vehicle trips. This cuts greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution that exacerbates respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



## 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.
- Communities of color, persons with disabilities, and low-income communities will be disproportionately harmed with even greater lack of reliable transportation options.
- Riders can miss dialysis or health appointments or may be stranded when paratransit is late or fails to appear.
- **Emergency shutdowns and unsafe** 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 over MDOT's programmed levels to meet the \$500 million required annually to meet MTA's capital needs.

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

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

### What will the funding help improve?

It will improve access to MARC and bus stations, expand bus shelters, and promote sustainability efforts. In October 2020, The Central Maryland region enacted 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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