



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 390  
I-270 Commuter Bus Route Study**

This bill would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of a commuter bus route serving Frederick and Montgomery Counties and Northern Virginia via I-270.

**Regional Traffic Requires a Regional Solution**

The DC Metropolitan area ranks as one of the worst places for traffic in the country. According to the Maryland Department of Transportation, stretches of I-270 experience rush hour conditions between 7 to 10 hours per day.

This bill fills a gap in existing plans for traffic congestion relief on the I-270 corridor by studying the expansion of commuter buses from Maryland into Northern Virginia.

**Commuter Buses are a Proven Solution to Traffic**

The Maryland Transit Administration operates 36 bus lines throughout the state, many of which connect Maryland to DC.

One of these existing bus lines serves 70% of the route proposed in this bill; it goes from the City of Frederick to Shady Grove Metro and Rock Spring Business Park in southern Montgomery County. The study proposed by this legislation would expand that route into Northern Virginia.

We know from prior experience that a bus route connecting Maryland and Virginia would be well used. From 1995 to 2009, WMATA ran a bus route between Bethesda and Tysons Corner. At the time, the bus route served over 500 riders a day. Transportation planners suggest that ridership is likely to be significantly higher today due to regional growth in population and jobs.

In sum, adding a commuter bus route between Maryland and Virginia along the I-270 corridor would help to ease regional traffic, tackle climate change, and improve the quality of life for Marylanders commuters.