



February 26, 2020

**Support for HB 1159 –
Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan and Commission--Alterations**

Position: Transit Choices supports selection of Baltimore's North Avenue Corridor

Transit Choices strongly supports the 4.5-mile east-to-west corridor, North Avenue, as an urgent opportunity for study to unify profoundly-fractured and racially-divided Baltimore. North Avenue is Baltimore's most important transit east-west corridor across the geographic center of the city. Decades of disinvestment resulting in underused commercial property, and derelict housing along North Avenue means that transit in the corridor fails to match its significant potential for revitalization.

From the start, Transit Choices has actively participated in community planning for the MTA TIGER Grant's North Avenue Rising corridor streetscape improvements. Connecting established Metro, Light Rail, MARC/Amtrak and Baltimore LINK transit networks in the corridor is critical for the area to recover and thrive.

Transit Choices believes that safe, efficient and reliable public transit is an essential means to achieving personal and economic independence. In Baltimore City, there has never been a greater need to address the shortcomings of our existing public transit systems. People of all ages, races, ethnicities, and abilities deserve access to highly efficient corridors that will enable each person to achieve fullest potential. We strongly urge passage of HB 1159 with North Avenue designated as one of the three early opportunity corridors for study in the Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Rouse, Board Chair
410.528.8696
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cc: Robin Budish, Director

The mission of Transit Choices is to envision and work to implement an effective and efficient public transit system in Baltimore which better connects people to living wage jobs, educational opportunities, healthcare and healthy food. Transit Choices began as a small group of people advocating for better transit. We have grown to be a large contingent of organizations and individuals who have become a respected and innovative voice for transit, working closely with both City and State agencies and their leaders.