



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL**  
**RYAN DORSEY, 3<sup>rd</sup> District**

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March 5, 2020

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
The Honorable Dana Stein, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland

**Re: Requesting Favorable Report - HB1236 - Maryland Area Regional  
Commuter Train - Expansion of Service**

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chairman Stein, and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

Please issue a favorable report on HB1236, which would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to enter into good faith negotiations with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia to reach a written agreement on a pilot program for run through service from Maryland into Virginia on the MARC train.

100 years ago, Marylanders could board regional commuter rail trains in Baltimore City and travel to York and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, Westminster, Frederick, Cumberland, and other points in Western Maryland, the Eastern Shore, Annapolis, and Washington, D.C. and points south.

Today, expanding MARC service in Maryland is a top priority for Baltimore, which I articulated in my own near-term transportation vision, Region-Centered, People-Centered, released in December of last year. (Read at [bit.ly/DorseyTransportationPlan](http://bit.ly/DorseyTransportationPlan))

Expanding and growing MARC means that Baltimore residents will have more access to jobs, and that Baltimore's business climate will improve as Baltimore becomes more competitive for business, and that we can move more people and goods throughout Baltimore and Maryland while limiting congestion and reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution.

HB1236 proposes a run through pilot that could one day allow Maryland residents to travel to Virginia on a single-seat ride. This connectivity reinforces the need for critical capital projects like replacing the B&P Tunnel and creating four continuous tracks between Baltimore and

Washington, D.C. One day, Baltimore residents and businesses will be able to access jobs and destinations in DC and Virginia at an affordable price and a reasonable amount of time.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I ask that you please issue a favorable report for HB1236.

Sincerely,

Councilman Ryan Dorsey  
Baltimore City Council, 3rd District  
Chair, Transportation Committee