



TESTIMONY FOR SB0199

Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator McCray

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0199 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

We support working Marylanders who need a good public transportation system to get to work and go about their daily lives. We support the environment and we know that putting more cars on the road only makes the environmental crisis we are facing that much more dire.

Did you know that 70% of Maryland’s greenhouse gases come from the Transportation Sector, but most of the money we spend from the Transportation Trust Fund goes to the State Highway Administration?

How wrong-headed is that? Maryland needs public transportation. Not just what we have, but a good infrastructure for the future. But how can we get that infrastructure if the one we have is crumbling from lack of funding? If we can’t even manage to support the systems that we have already built, we have no foundation for the future.

We have spent much of the past year talking about how much we rely on and support front-line workers. Most of them struggle to get to work because they can’t afford cars and our public transportation system is so behind on maintenance that it is one of the least reliable systems in the country! What kind of ‘support’ for front-line workers is that?

We have to understand that public transportation is an investment, just like schools. It is an investment in our future. Maryland has no future if we can’t get people to their jobs. Jobs will locate in areas with good infrastructure. This is a problem that we’ve waited too long to solve. Make the investment, not only for our environment, but for our people and our future.

We support this bill and we believe it is a very important key to our future. I recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.