

January 20, 2021

Architecture

Urban Design

Planning

Re: **Testimony on SB 199 –
Maryland Transit Safety & Investment Act
Budget & Taxation**

Position: Favorable

Klaus Philipsen, President ArchPlan Inc. Baltimore.

I support SB 199, the Transit Safety & Investment Act.

As a long time transportation consultant I am acutely aware of the funding problems of the MTA and especially the need for a better state of repair for rail and bus transit.

The resulting inefficiencies cost the MTA more money for its day to day operations and reduce the reliability of the services which, in turn, results in diminished customer satisfaction. .

As an urban planner I understand that economic development and quality of life in metropolitan areas is to a large extent dependent of good access to reliable and frequent transit. The Baltimore metro area does not stack up in comparison to many similar size peer cities and metro areas with much stronger investment into their transit systems.

The Transit Safety & Investment Act will mandate that MTA's capital budget be at a level that allows it to address all of the needs identified and get the system back into a state of good repair so that it can operate safely and reliably.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.



President ArchPlan Inc.