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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Capital Budget Subcommittee  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Vote Yes on Senate Bill 199**

**Bill Title: Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)**

**Hearing Date: January 20, 2021, Budget & Taxation**

**Chair: Guy Guzzone, Vice-Chair: James Rosapepe**

I write to you today to urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 199, which would provide emergency capital funding to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to maintain safe, reliable transit operations throughout the state of Maryland.

This bill is a response to the capital funding crisis faced by Maryland's transit system. In the past several years, public transit services provided by MTA, including statewide MARC commuter train and commuter bus, as well as Baltimore regional transit services, have increasingly been marred by breakdowns, shutdowns, and service delays. In fact, according to data from the Federal Transit Administration, the MTA ranks worst in the nation for breakdowns among transit agencies of similar size.

The reason for this is simple: MTA's capital needs have been chronically underfunded. MTA's 2019 Capital Needs Inventory demonstrated that by failing to provide adequate capital funds, MDOT has built a large and growing backlog of State of Good Repair needs, or maintenance projects needed for safe and reliable operation of the existing system.

We all pay a steep price when public transit is neglected. Shutdowns and delays mean that essential workers cannot get to jobs, seniors cannot access healthcare, and students cannot get to the classroom. Investments in public transit help maintain safe conditions for the workers who operate those services, and create living wage careers for Marylanders. A strong public transit system is a must-have if our region is going to compete nationally and globally with other regions who are prioritizing public transit as a source of competitive advantage.

For these reasons, I ask you for your support in moving for a favorable report of Senate Bill 199.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray'.

Cory V. McCray  
State Senator