



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: January 20, 2021

RE: SB199 Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

The MLLC supports SB199 Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act).

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB199.

Residents use Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) services every day. The MTA serves almost 70% of the state's population and they average 320,000 weekday trips and 95 million trips per year. Due to underfunding, the MTA is underserving its riders and that has serious consequences for our communities.

MTA services experience more shutdowns, delays, and breakdowns compared to transit systems in other major cities. Black and Brown communities and low-income families are more likely to be directly impacted by underfunded public transportation systems. Lack of public transportation for these families restricts their access to essential destinations, such as work, school, and health-related appointments. It becomes difficult for these affected individuals to reach employment and academic opportunities without adequate transit. With a rapidly growing Latino community and a population that relies heavily on our public transit system, it is critical that MTA obtains the necessary funds for the years to come.

SB199 extends provisions of the Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act (Chapters 351 and 352 of 2018), through 2028, that require increased operating and capital spending for the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). This bill provides critical funding annually for capital improvements so that MTA can meet state of good repair and enhancement needs. All Marylanders should have access to reliable public transportation.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on SB199.