

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

January 25, 2021

Senator and Committee Chair Guzzone
Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

RE: Support for SB 0199, Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act)

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 0199, the Maryland Transit Administration - Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act). Last year this bill, known as SB424 / HB368, passed the house but did not make it to the Senate due to Coronavirus.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of SB 0199 given our mandate to advance sustainability and equity to benefit all of the residents of Baltimore. The MTA serves the entire State of Maryland, but its services are most concentrated in Baltimore City, where it is most used by low-income residents, many of whom do not have access to a vehicle. For these residents the MTA provides critical means of transportation to job opportunities and services around the city and beyond. Degradation of MTA services caused by budget shortfalls are felt most acutely by these residents. As such, adequate funding for MTA is an equity priority for Baltimore City and for many low-income residents across the State.

We urge the Committee to support SB 0199.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Senators McCray and Zucker