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BILL NO.: **SB 199**

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

SPONSOR: Senator McCray

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 20, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 199 - Maryland Transit Administration – Funding (Transit Safety and Investment Act). This bill would require the Governor to appropriate necessary additional funds in the State budget to the Maryland Transit Administration for operation and capital needs for each fiscal year 2023 through 2028.

This funding request is in response to recent findings by the MTA that identified substantial budget gaps required for the agency to maintain operations and keep transit in a state of good repair. Underfunding and compounding deferred maintenance has resulted in Maryland's buses, light rail vehicles and subway trains to constantly break down. Many Baltimore County residents rely on public transportation to get to work, access medical care and obtain other essential services throughout the Baltimore Metro area. County Executive Olszewski has prioritized improving public transit in the region and understands the value of low-cost transportation services in improving the lives of residents and supporting a strong local economy.

This legislation requires that budget appropriations directed to the MTA address the needs identified in order to get Maryland's transportation infrastructure back to a level that residents deserve. This will be accomplished through additional funding provisions for fiscal years 2023 through 2028 that will go toward the state of good repair needs of the administration.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 199. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.