

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
House Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Elizabeth Hafey, Esq.
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Johns Hopkins University and Medicine urges a favorable report on **HB 632 Baltimore East-West Corridor—Transit Study**. This bill requires the State Department of Transportation to complete and secure a decision for the Red Line and MARC rail extension. It specifically requires the Department of Transportation (the “Department”) to undertake all necessary steps to complete planning, preliminary engineering, and the National Environmental Policy Act process and secure a record of decision for the Red Line transit project and a MARC rail extension to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. It further mandates the Department to prepare a plan for the funding and financing of the construction and operation of this extension. Johns Hopkins has been a longtime supporter of continued expansion of the passenger rail transportation system which is critical to ensuring the continued economic growth and vitality of the Baltimore metropolitan area. As the location of the new proposed stop, we strongly support this legislation.

The Red Line and the MARC rail extension will provide a vital east-west connection across Baltimore City, a connection that has been needed for decades. It would not only unite both sides of the city, but also provide vital links to the existing north-south Light Rail, Metro subway and MARC train systems.

As the State’s largest private employer, with more than 53,000 Marylanders in our employ, Johns Hopkins knows that adequate investments in Maryland’s transportation system are critical to the economic competitiveness and livelihood of our state and region and in the lives of all our employees, students, patients, and visitors. Every day, they rely on it to get to work or school, to access healthcare, or to meet their needs.

In particular, Johns Hopkins Health System includes, among other elements, The Johns Hopkins Hospital in East Baltimore and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Southeast Baltimore. We are one of the largest health delivery systems serving the city. The 130-acre Johns Hopkins Bayview campus currently consists of 2.8 million square feet of research, patient care and support facilities. Johns Hopkins Bayview has 5,500 campus-based employees and saw 400,000 combined patient admissions, emergency department visits, and outpatient visits in FY21. Expanding transportation access to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Center will be an invaluable benefit to our staff, employees, and patients.

Johns Hopkins urges the Appropriations Committee and the Environment and Transportation Committee to issue a **favorable report on HB 632**.