



## Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my intent to provide a letter of interest on behalf of the Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization (HEPMPO) for Maryland General Assembly, Senate Bill, SB0210 – Employer-Provided Commuter Benefits – Expansion. HEPMPPO is a federally designated and funded regional transportation planning agency covering Washington County MD.

The Bill adds Carpool as a form of Rideshare, as well as adding Telework, Active Transportation, and multimodal options for first and last mile benefits, as well employer provided commuter benefits, providing more benefits and flexibility to employers and commuters in Maryland.

Communities are made more livable, a healthy lifestyle is promoted and cost efficient driving alternatives are provided through the Bill's proposed expansion of multimodal commuter benefits. During completion of HEPMPPO's Direction 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, our region's public communicated their interest in enhancing walking connectivity, improving different forms of transportation and boosting regional connectivity.

Furthermore, our Long Range Transportation Plan outlines three overarching goals that this Bill supports:

- 1) Encourage alternative modes of transportation through multimodal network improvements and innovative marketing strategies. *(Multimodal Transportation Goal)*
- 2) Improve access to social and economic opportunities. *(Economic Prosperity Goal)*
- 3) Minimize the impacts of the transportation network on the environment. *(Environmental Stewardship Goal)*

Senate Bill 0210 helps to accomplish our region's long range transportation goals.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Mullenax, GISP  
Executive Director