
Testimony Supporting SB0023/HB141
Senate Finance / House Environment & Transportation Committee
January 26, 2022 / January 27, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

As a Baltimore resident with no car, I support the Transit Equity Act, SB0023/HB141 sponsored by Senator Carter and Delegate Ruth, which puts equity at the forefront of Maryland transportation planning and ensures equitable transportation access for Marylanders.

I rely on public transit to get to work and it's 2 miles to the nearest light rail stop.

It's more than a mile to the nearest Metro stop.

The nearest bus runs only once-an-hour when I commute.

When I'm in a rush -- or in bad weather -- it's a challenge.

Especially when I get off work at 9 PM.

At night -- and in bad weather -- it would be extremely helpful to have reliable alternatives to a bus I have to wait an hour for -- or walking and biking in icy, windy conditions.

Also, the Red Line cancellation was devastating to Baltimore. It halted job access opportunity and a route out of poverty for entire communities.

On a personal level, the Red Line would help me visit friends and family who don't own cars or who can't drive due to disabilities.

All Maryland residents would benefit from The Transit Equity Act.

Renewing work on the Red Line and creating a decent public transit system would create jobs and make Baltimore attractive to tourists which would raise money for the city and the state.

The Transit Equity Act would help people in Maryland who are now stuck, waiting hours for buses -- in cold windy weather -- and arriving to work late -- through no fault of their own -- but due to racist, social and economic gaps in policy.

Please support the Transit Equity Act.

Thank you.

Laura Melamed

