



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: March 29, 2022

RE: HB0073 Baltimore City – Complete Streets and Safe Routes
to School Programs – Funding

The MLLC supports HB0073 Baltimore City–Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School Programs – Funding

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0073.

About 33% of Baltimore residents—up to 80% of residents in communities of color—lack access to a car and rely on alternative methods of transit to move around. Poor bus service due to poor transportation infrastructure is a barrier to safety, and economic prosperity of communities of color. Improvement of transportation infrastructure will allow 30,000 Baltimore City Public School students who depend on the city’s public bus service to get to and from school every day without delays. Many children spend 90 minutes or more each way, every day, to get to school. Evidence suggests that these long bus commutes contribute to lateness, absenteeism and even truancy. Poor bus service is also a barrier to employment. According to the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, only about 5% of jobs in the Baltimore region are reachable by transit trips of less than 90 minutes.

This bill will require Baltimore City to spend all net revenue collected by the city’s automated camera monitoring systems (e.g. speed cameras, school bus cameras, red light cameras, overhead height monitoring cameras) in infrastructure and non-infrastructure improvements eligible for funding under the State Highway Administration’s Safe Routes to School to advance the purpose and goals of the Baltimore City Complete Streets Program Supports projects in Baltimore City. Funding provided by this will support the city’s efforts to improve public safety and transportation infrastructure. Baltimore City’s streets are inhospitable, because they are designed for moving cars, and Baltimore’s fatal, injury and property damage crash rates continue to increase. Improvements in transportation infrastructure will also improve the efficiency of public transportation communities of color rely on to go to work and to attend school.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0073.