



## **Testimony in Support of HB 1215**

### **Transportation Funding Act of 2024**

**March 1, 2024**

Committee Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, I am Samuel Jordan, President of the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). BTEC urges the Committee to issue a favorable report for HB 1215, the Transportation Funding Act of 2024.

HB 1215 is one of a suite of measures to be brought before the Committee to halt the hemorrhage in the state's capacity to meet the challenges of current crises in transportation funding and investment.

BTEC applauds the effort in HB 1215 to generate revenues through increased fees applied to the charges of the transportation network companies (TNCs).

The increase in the fees applied to TNCs when dedicated to debt service on bonds issued by the Maryland Department of Transportation will assist in countering the collapse in the state's fiscal strength.

HB 1215 is compatible with BTEC's proposed Escape Velocity Revenue Generation strategy (EVRG), itself an assertive entry into the General Obligation bond market to secure and retain taxable, \$3.0 - \$6.5 billion in private sector

investments in transit-oriented development (TOD), the hallmark of the revenue generation power of the Red Line light rail transit (LRT) system.

BTEC notes also that the Transportation Equity Act of 2023, contains provisions assuring that the implementation of HB 1215 will not result in disproportionately adverse or discriminatory impacts on TNC riders distinguished by race, color, national origin, income, ability status, and lack of access to cars. We applaud the Chairman's and the Committee's sensitivity to this concern.

BTEC urges the Committee to issue a favorable report for HB 1215.

Thank you. Samuel Jordan <[moretransitequity.com](mailto:moretransitequity.com)>