

Baltimore's Transit Future - November Update

Greetings,

Over the past month, we announced that more than [40 additional businesses and institutions joined the call to action](#) by saying that now is the time for better transit for the Baltimore region, we submitted [comments](#) on MTA's North-South Transit Corridor study, and we finalized a list of short- and medium-term recommendations for how Governor-elect Moore, Lieutenant Governor-elect Miller, and the General Assembly could advance the six priorities of the Baltimore's Transit Future campaign.

2023 is looking more and more like it could be a defining year for the future of the Greater Baltimore region's Transit Future. Thanks to all of you who are helping to make sure transit and its importance to the region's continued economic vitality is at the tip of the tongues of leaders across the region.

60+ Campaign Supporters

We Support Baltimore's Transit Future



On November 21, the Partnership and the GBC [announced that more than 40 additional Greater Baltimore businesses and institutions](#) have joined the call since we launched the campaign at the end of June of this year. Supporters include some of the biggest employers in the Baltimore region.

See statements about why transit is critical to the region's future from regional leaders in the [press release](#), including: Laura Gamble, Robert Moser, John Racanelli, Timothy Regan, and Dr. Mohan Suntha.

North-South Transit Corridor Study Comments

On November 7, the Partnership and the GBC [submitted comments](#) on MDOT MTA's phase 1 of the [North-South Transit Corridor Study](#) looking at rapid transit expansion options between downtown Baltimore and Towson/Lutherville.

“As we stated in our [East-West comments](#), the primary consideration in selecting routes for further study should be which routes have the **greatest potential to expand access to opportunities for residents, students, and especially disadvantaged and underserved communities.**”

We also recommend that the North-South alternatives advanced for further study should prioritize quality of service, proximity to riders, multimodal connectivity, and connections to the transit network. We strongly encourage the incoming Moore-Miller administration and MDOT MTA to move with all haste to advance the North-South Transit Corridor Study to position the project to apply for discretionary funding made available through the federal bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Read [the comments here](#) and learn more about [MDOT MTA's study](#) here.



Gubernatorial Transition Memo

Shortly before Thanksgiving, our advisory committee of business leaders submitted to Governor-elect Moore and Lieutenant Governor-elected Miller a set of strategies that provides a roadmap for the incoming administration and General Assembly to consider that can support the transformation of Greater Baltimore's public transit system, realistically and quickly, into a driver of economic growth and inclusion for the region.



The memo and accompanying cost estimates build on the six priorities laid out in the Baltimore's Transit Future campaign and has been developed over the past few months with a team of technical experts and professionals as well as input and feedback from many of you. We look forward to working with you all in 2023 to advance our shared goals to expand opportunities for Maryland residents, grow Maryland businesses, and create a more sustainable and inclusive economy. See a summary of our first 100-day recommendations below.

FIRST 100 DAY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADVANCE SIX STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



PRIORITY 01 **Bring MDOT MTA into Good Repair & Overcome Staffing Shortages**

-  Increase funding for MTA's Capital Budget by at least \$89 million over baseline in FY2024.
-  Prioritize operator retention and streamline hiring timelines to provide more reliable service.



PRIORITY 02 **Establish Frequent, Reliable Transit Service to Regional Job Centers**

-  Enhance MTA's FY2024 operating budget to increase frequencies and hours of service.
-  Prioritize light rail service on Howard Street and buses on key corridors by the end of 2023.




PRIORITY 03 **Enhance Regional Coordination, Decision Making, and Funding**

-  Advance the Baltimore Metropolitan Council's (BMC) Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup Recommendations.
-  Remove the 2013 inflationary metric for MTA fare increases.





PRIORITY 04 **Execute a 10-Year Rapid Transit Expansion Program**

-  Enhance East-West bus service and complete the East-West rapid transit corridor study in 2023.
-  Establish an Infrastructure Lead to accelerate project planning, design, and construction of transit projects.

PRIORITY 05 **Deliver the Benefits of Regional Rail Investments**

-  Collaborate with neighboring states to enable Regional Rail service.
-  Execute a funding agreement between MDOT and Amtrak to construct the Frederick Douglass Tunnel.
-  Establish a Post-COVID Recovery Plan that reorients MARC service towards Regional Rail.

PRIORITY 06 **Spur Equitable Development along Transit and Rail Corridors**

-  Support legislative proposals to accelerate equitable Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).
-  Require that state economic development funding prioritizes transit-accessible locations.
-  Improve the state's TOD designation process and support jurisdictions' requests for new sites.
-  Establish a TOD interagency 'quarterback' team to streamline administrative barriers.

Legend: Who should lead implementation



Governor



General Assembly



Shared

How to Champion Baltimore's Transit Future This Month

1. Attend the fourth and last of the [Baltimore Regional Transit Governance and Funding Workgroup](#) meetings on [Friday, December 2 from 9-11](#) at BMC's office or virtually. *Meetings are open to members of the public and you can attend virtually or in person.*
2. Add your organization's logo to the list of supporters on our [campaign website](#).
3. Share the [campaign website](#), this email update, or the [compilation video](#) with your constituents and elected representatives.
4. Invite the GBC & the Partnership to present the campaign to your team or constituents.

Transit News

- [Silver and Red: Can Baltimore ever catch up with D.C. on public transit? | COMMENTARY](#) (Baltimore Sun 11.17.22)
- [Baltimore area takes next step in assessing transit corridors](#) (Trains 11.16.22)
- [High Stakes for Transportation in Governors Races](#) (Route-Fifty 11.7.22)
- [The MTA now has real-time tracking on all of its modes. Here's how they did it.](#) (GGWash 11.2.22)
- [A Bus Driver Shortage Threatens Transit. Here's What to Do About It.](#) (Governing 10.31.22)
- [The Partnership and GBC convene Baltimore leaders in Richmond to learn about Bus Rapid Transit as a tool for Inclusive Growth](#) (Perspectives Blog 10.20.22)

Thank you for your continued support and help to champion Baltimore's Transit Future. We are stronger by working together. Let's accelerate progress to create a more inclusive and economically thriving Greater Baltimore region.