

2023 TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WHO WE ARE

The Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM) is a statewide organization of over 100 community transportation, human service, and transportation vendor firms in the State of Maryland that is dedicated to improving mobility for all of Maryland's citizens.

WHO WE REPRESENT

Community transportation in every county and jurisdiction in Maryland.

The Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM) has identified three (3) priority issues that we will support during the 2023 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

1 INCREASED FUNDING TO THE SENIOR RIDES PROGRAM (SRP): This program, which relies on volunteer drivers to transport over 26,000 low- and moderate-income seniors per year, has been funded at a flat level (\$187,000) since FY 2014. The cost-per-trip of this program is far lower than any other form of publicly supported transportation, including public transportation, taxi vouchers, and other programs (\$6.09 per trip in FY 20). TAM requests this funding be increased to the statutory maximum of \$500,000 to fully fund all requested grants under this program.

2 RESTORATION OF COVID-19 BUDGET CUTS TO LOCAL TRANSIT: In FY 21, MDOT reduced operating grants to locally operated transit systems by 20% (\$12,000,000) with the explicit proviso that this would be offset by the availability of CARES act funding. Two years later, CARES act funding has been fully allocated, but MDOT support for local transit has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Local transit systems are being squeezed with higher costs for fuel, labor, and greatly increased capital expenses for vehicles. The return of this funding is critical to ensuring the viability of local transit in Maryland.

3 DRIVER ASSAULT LEGISLATION: Assaults on public transit operators have increased significantly, especially during the pandemic. The Federal Transit Administration data shows that operator assaults per trip have increased fourfold from 2009 to 2020. TAM supports legislation to require the Department of Transportation to develop a risk reduction program for all Maryland Transit Administration and Locally Operated Transit system operators to improve safety by reducing the number and rate of accidents, injuries, assaults on operators, and fatalities.

www.TAMinc.org

The Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM) is a statewide organization that is dedicated to improving mobility for all of Maryland's citizens. TAM is a viable and effective advocate for its members and provides professional development, training, and forums for the pursuit of excellence in public transportation by public, private, and specialized transportation providers. Community transportation services provided by TAM members link people to community resources and promote business, tourism and economic development.



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