**[PLACE ON YOUR ORGANIZATION’S LETTERHEAD]**

**Bill:** House Bill 432: Maryland Transit Administration - Locally Operated Transit Systems - Mandatory Funding

**Position:** SUPPORT

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of [your organization’s name] in support of House Bill 432, which would increase funding for Locally Operated Transit Systems (LOTS) throughout our state

[**Insert information about your organization – where you are located, whom you serve (including rider demographics), and how State funding helps to support other funding streams, including local and federal. Include information about funding that has been flat or declining over the years.]**

We make mobility a reality for our customers. Unfortunately, funding for these program have already been cut in the aftermath of COVID-19. As we recover from the pandemic we are being called upon to provide more responsive service to more people while also beginning the transition to low and zero emissions technology.

State support for local transit is critical to ensure our goals of quality service, environmental protection, and equity are reached. As state funding has stagnated or decreased, our local matches for state and federal funding have taken on a greater and greater proportion of funding. Inflation has particularly hit our industry hard, with prices for vehicles increasing [**INSERT PERCENTAGE**] and the need for increased driver salaries to remain competitive. We need predictability in state funding streams in order to plan how to best serve the customers in our communities.

We fully support House Bill 432’s efforts to increase support for the mobility of the citizens and communities we serve.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE], [ORGANIZATION]