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NO STOPPIN' BALTIMORE TRANSIT EQUITY

Baltimore's Transit Equity Coalition Petition Campaign aims to create a comprehensive regional transit system

Baltimore, May 1, 2023 - Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC) has launched a city-wide campaign to gather 20,000 petitions asking to add an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter to the ballot in the November 2024 elections. The proposed amendment allows for the creation of a Baltimore Regional Transportation Authority (BRTA) which gives local residents a voice in the public transit decisions that directly affect them, in addition to budget setting, federal funds applications, and choice of projects that will best serve the people where they live. In 2022, BTEC submitted approx. 15,000 petitions to the Baltimore City Board of Elections for ballot access but were rejected despite only 10,000 petitions being required.

BTEC's petition campaign aims to reverse decades of isolation suffered by the Black community due to historical redlining. This isolation is a result of decisions such as then-governor Hogan killing the \$2.9 billion red line light rail project in 2015 and sending back \$900 million of dedicated federal funds. Baltimore's automobile-centered infrastructure makes it difficult to access jobs, health services, education, food, and travel without a car or effective public transit. The BRTA would put into place the 14-mile Red line connecting Woodlawn with West Baltimore, Downtown, Inner Harbor East, Fells Point, Canton, and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. It would also connect transit hubs such as Light Rail, Metro Subway, and MARC Train –creating the foundation for a fair, modern, multimodal, comprehensive transit system for the DMV. You can print then sign your petition in support for the "BRTA NOW" at moretransitequity.com.

The Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition was founded in 2015 and immediately submitted a Title VI administrative complaint to the US Department of Transportation on the grounds that the cancellation violated the federal government's anti-discrimination laws established by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

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