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“GOVERNOR MOORE, WITH TRANSPORTATION EQUITY IN MARYLAND, WE SHALL LEAD THE NATION!”

Baltimoreans celebrate the signing of the Transportation Equity Act of 2023

Baltimore, May 8, 2023 – “Governor Moore, with Transportation Equity in Maryland, we shall lead the nation!” was the cheer reverberating in the State House after Governor Moore signed the Transportation Equity Act of 2023 into law, marking a turning point in Maryland’s divisive and race-based transit history. Celebrating the signing was the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC), which was organized in 2015 to pursue a complaint with the US Department of Transportation on the grounds that the cancellation by then Governor Hogan of the Red Line violated the federal government’s anti-discrimination laws established by the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The Transportation Equity Act passed in the 2023 legislative session under the skillful management of its sponsors, Delegate Sheila Ruth and Senator Jill Carter, supported by the strategic advocacy of the MidAtlantic Justice Coalition (MAJC) of which BTEC, along with dozens of other environmental and climate justice organizations, is a part. Among BTEC's allies, also in attendance, were members of BRIDGE-Maryland, CASA, American Association of Retired People (AARP), Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) and MAJC.

“The Transportation Equity Act anticipates and prevents discrimination based on race, gender, income and national origin. Going forward, any new transportation policy will require an objective and fair transit equity and cost-benefit analysis, in addition to active engagement of those communities which are most impacted by changes in transit policy, services and programs,” said Mr. Samuel Jordan, Founder and President of BTEC.

BTEC is also gathering petitions for an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter in the upcoming elections, to allow for the creation of a Baltimore Regional Transportation Authority (BRTA), the foundation for a fair, modern, multimodal, comprehensive transit system for Central Maryland. You can print, then sign your petition in support for the “BRTA NOW” at moretransitequity.com.

The Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition is a resolute, community-led organization advocating for equitable, reliable transit that improves quality of life and the environment. ###