

**The Task Force to Study Transportation Access**  
**Final Report**

**A Report for the Governor and the Maryland General  
Assembly**

**MSAR #12129**

**December 2021**

## **Introduction**

The Task Force to Study Transportation Access (Task Force) offers this report in response to language contained in House Bill 923, Ch. 705 (2019). The language states:

*The Task Force shall:*

*(1) review information, findings, and recommendations from available recent and current human services transportation plans, pilot projects, and reports; and  
(2) make and report findings and recommendations for policies or actions to improve transportation access in accordance with the purpose of the Task Force described under subsection (c) of this Act.*

*(j) (2) On or before December 1, 2021, the Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.*

## **Membership**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Organization</b>
Senator Malcolm Augustine	Senate of Maryland
Delegate Tony Bridges	Maryland House of Delegates
Robin McKinney	CASH Campaign of Maryland
	Center for Mobility Equity
	Central Maryland Transportation Alliance
Mary Handley	Delmarva Community Services, Inc.
Christopher Dews	Job Opportunities Task Force
Rodney Lee	Maryland Nonprofits
Chris Benzing	Maryland Rural Development Corporation
Kimberly Golden Brandt (Ruby Nwaebube)	Preservation Maryland
Ande Kolp	The Arc Maryland
John Duklewski	Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc.
Martin Schwartz	Vehicles for Change
Mark Hudson	COMMUTE with Enterprise

Don Fry	Greater Baltimore Committee
Andrew Griffin	Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Scott Gibson	Greater Washington Board of Trade
Kathleen Walker	MD Dept. of Health ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Samantha Blizzard	MD Dept. of Human Services ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Travis Johnston	MD Dept. of Transportation ( <i>ex officio</i> )
Mike DiGiacomo	Governor's Workforce Development Board ( <i>ex officio</i> )

As of the date of this report, the Center for Mobility Equity and Central Maryland Transportation Alliance had not appointed members to the Task Force.

The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate appointed Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges as Co-Chairs of the Task Force.

The Secretary's Office at MDOT (MDOT TSO) Office of Planning and Capital Programming provided staff to the Task Force.

### **Meetings**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings of the Task Force have been held virtually, via Microsoft Teams and minutes have been recorded (Appendix A & B). Full Task Force meetings have been held on the following dates:

- September 30, 2020
- November 18, 2020
- January 6, 2021
- May 6, 2021
- July 1, 2021
- August 10, 2021
- September 14, 2021
- November 19, 2021

Four Subcommittees were formed focusing on: Employment, Training and Education Opportunities, Health and Rehabilitation Services, including nonemergency medical services, and Other Social Services. The fourth subcommittee, Other Social Services, was eventually absolved and members joined the other three standing subcommittees. Subcommittees met independently from February 2021 – June 2021.

## **Recommendations**

Upon consideration and deliberation, the Task Force agreed upon four recommendations to advance transportation access across the State. Each recommendation, as well as the Task Force's preferred means to achieve the goal, are outlined below.

### **1. Expand Independent Transit Access and Mobility through the Expansion of Vehicle Access Programs and the Consideration of Low-Cost Auto Insurance Programs**

The 2040 Maryland Transportation Plan found that most Marylanders commute by driving alone, most likely due to location restraints or lack of transportation options and, according to a 2019 American Community Survey, 46% of Marylanders commute out of the county for work. Research has shown that commute distances between work and home are only growing. Between 2000 and 2012, the number of jobs within the typical commute distance for residents in a major metro area fell by seven (7) percent, and almost every major metro area across the country saw jobs move from urban areas to suburban areas. Accessing safe, reliable transportation is critical for sustainable employment. Some examples of such programs include Vehicles for Change and Second Chances Garage.

In Maryland, driving uninsured is an incarcerable offense that can result in up to one year in jail, a \$1,000 fine, or both. Some Marylanders may drive uninsured potentially due to the high cost of auto insurance. The cost of auto insurance is partially assessed by zip code, meaning high-crime, low-income areas could pay more in auto insurance. It is suggested that Maryland consider a collaborative approach to a Low-Cost Auto-Insurance Program, similar to California's Low-Cost Automobile Program (CLCA) created in 1999, for good drivers in jurisdictions with the highest uninsured rates, such as Prince George's County, Baltimore County, and Baltimore City. In determining eligibility, the Program could require the review of the non-driving factor of credit history in the underwriting process as well as broaden the territorial rating system to regional instead of by zip code.

### **2. Improve Efficiency and Capacity within Assisted Transit Access through the Improvement of On-Demand Paratransit Programs and the Improvement of Collaboration between Medical Transportation Providers**

Paratransit programs serve people with disabilities by providing "origin-to-destination" services. Customer Service and extended wait periods remain potential issues in current programs, affecting Marylanders who need access to medical care, help with their benefits, or traveling to work. The Southern Maryland Region Plan determined a need to establish and expand transportation for medical and non-medical trips, including access to the Metro.

Vans and cutaway buses often may operate inefficient routes due to lack of coordination between health care facilities and transit providers. Transit agency dispatchers are often unable to undertake the additional work of vetting and coordinating with other providers. Many passengers require transportation outside of normal service areas and may have to make multiple inconvenient trips. Recent rulings on the federal "Safe Harbor" anti-kickback regulations allow medical providers to contribute to the cost of transportation to their facilities. Many non-

emergency medical transportation (NEMT) passengers require special services that do not need a full ambulance but still require a level of care and training that transit agencies and nonprofits are not fully equipped to provide.

Guidance for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) enables Medicaid agencies to sponsor transit agency trips with a negotiated rate. Increased partnership between medical providers and transit providers will decrease the friction when it comes to scheduling appointments.

### **3. Close the Access Gap with Different Types of Transit Modes through the Creation and Promotion of Rides Sharing and the Investment in “Pooling”**

The majority of training programs exist in cities that have possibly priced-out residents. Rural Marylanders who benefit strongly from training programs potentially cannot afford to live in the cities that provide them. There is no current transit system sufficient to reach them. It would be beneficial for these lower-income rural communities to create and market ridesharing programs for training programs. A “pool” model can help facilitate the movement of groups of people near each other from Point A to Point B, such as moving large residential populations to industry hubs. A company contracted to operate the pool could collect information on where people live and where the job hubs are located, information that has not been collected. Examples of such companies include Zeelo and Commute with Enterprise.

### **4. Increase Accessibility and Utilization of Existing Mass Transit Access through Increasing Outreach and Transparency**

The Transportation Alliance grades regions in Maryland on their transportation. The Central Maryland Region received an F for disconnected communities on the 2020 Transportation Report Card, as 24% of workers in the Baltimore region spend at least 45 minutes commuting to work, and many of these commuters are concentrated in specific neighborhoods. Increasing outreach and transparency for local public transit in an efficient, targeted manner could potentially decrease commute times.

Every five years, local transit systems must complete a Transportation Development Program (TDP). Maryland should consider expanding communication efforts beyond notices in the paper and minimum public notice requirements to ensure that affected citizens are aware of the opportunity for feedback. Increasing participation at TDP meetings from stakeholders, members of the Health and Human services community, and the affected citizens would generate ideas and support. It would be beneficial to increase accessibility of information related to transportation services, schedules, and programs, as well as create uniformity across the State for predictable transportation patterns.

## Appendix A

### Task Force Agendas

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**[September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020](#)**

**10:00 am – 11:00 am**

**[Click here to join the meeting](#)**

Call In: 1-443-409-5228  
Conference ID: 461 349 299#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chairs: Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges
  
- II. Task Force Member Introductions and Background
  
- III. Review of Task Force Responsibility and Deliverables
  
- IV. Next Steps
  
- V. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine and Bridges

# **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: 1-443-409-5228  
Conference ID: 289 468 301#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chairs: Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges
  
- II. Presentation: The Maryland Five-Year Human Services Transportation Plan by Travis Johnston, Director of the Office of Local Transit Support, Maryland Transit Administration
  
- III. Questions and Discussion
  
- IV. Next Steps and Next Meeting: January 7<sup>th</sup>
  
- V. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine and Bridges



# **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: 1-443-409-5228  
Conference ID: 777 607 778#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chairs: Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges
  
- II. Subcommittee Topics, Discussion, and Assignment
  
- III. Next Steps and Next Meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup>
  
- IV. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine and Bridges

# **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: 1-443-409-5228  
Conference ID: 521 354 898#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chair: Senator Malcolm Augustine
  
- II. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Employment
  - b. Education and Training
  - c. Health and Rehabilitation Services
  - d. Other Social Services
  
- III. Next Steps and Next Meeting: July 1<sup>st</sup>
  
- IV. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine

# **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: 1-443-409-5228  
Conference ID: 703 951 640#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chairs: Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges
  
- II. Subcommittee Updates
  - a. Education and Training
  - b. Health and Rehabilitation Services
  
- III. Full Task Force Discussion
  
- IV. Next Steps and Next Meeting
  
- V. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine and Bridges

# **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: 1-443-409-5228

Conference ID: 600472343#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chairs: Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges
  
- II. Review of the Recommendations for Consideration
  - a. Employment Subcommittee
  - b. Health and Rehabilitation Services Subcommittee
  - c. Education and Training Subcommittee
  
- III. Full Task Force Discussion
  - a. Selection of top recommendations
  - b. Draft report discussion (note: final report due December 2021)
  
- IV. Next Steps and Next Meeting
  
- V. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine and Bridges

# **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**September 14, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: 1-443-409-5228  
Conference ID: 378161112#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chairs: Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges
  
- II. Review of the Consolidated Recommendations for Consideration
  - a. Expand Independent Transit Access/Mobility
  - b. Improve Efficiency and Capacity within Assisted Transit Access
  - c. Close the Access Gap with Different Types of Transit Modes
  - d. Increase Accessibility and Utilization of Existing Mass Transit Access
  
- III. Full Task Force Discussion
  - a. Draft report discussion (note: final report due December 2021)
  
- IV. Next Steps and Next Meeting
  
- V. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine and Bridges

# **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**November 19, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Call In: 1-443-409-5228  
Conference ID: 840394808#

- I. Introduction from Co-Chairs: Senator Malcolm Augustine and Delegate Tony Bridges
  
- II. Full Task Force Discussion
  - a. Final Report discussion (note: due December 2021)
  
- III. Next Steps
  
- IV. Closing Remarks: Co-Chairs Augustine and Bridges

## Appendix B

### Task Force Minutes

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**September 30, 2020**

**10:00 – 11:00 am**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Co-Chair Senator Malcolm Augustine
- Co-Chair Delegate Tony Bridges
- Ian Beam – MDOT OPCP
- Ashley Duckman – MD Chamber of Commerce
- John Duklewski – Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc.
- Melissa Einhorn – MDOT OGA
- Kim Gscheidle – MDH
- Scott Gibson – Greater Washington Board of Trade
- Mike DiGiacomo – Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Pilar Helm – MDOT OGA
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Travis Johnston – MDOT MTA
- Ande Kolp – The Arc Maryland
- Rodney Lee – Maryland Nonprofits, Catholic Charities
- Kenneth Lemberg – Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Toneaya Moore – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Heather Murphy – MDOT OPCP
- Martin Schwartz – Vehicles for Change
- Adrea Turner – Greater Baltimore Committee

### **Addressed moving forward and expectations:**

- Interim report was complete so there will be a final report submitted by the Task Force in December 2021
- Anticipating 6 or 7 meetings over the next year
- Discussion of possibly breaking into subcommittees for research purposes

### **Reviewed the purpose of the Task Force as outlined by HB 923 of the 2019 Session**

- Review information, findings, and recommendations from available recent and current human services transportation plans, pilot projects, and reports; and
- Make and report findings and recommendations for policies or actions to improve transportation access in accordance with the purpose of the Task Force described under subsection (c) of this Act.



- On or before June 30, 2020, the Task Force shall submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.
- On or before December 1, 2021, the Task Force shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

### **Group Discussion and Comment Period**

### **Adjournment**

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**November 18, 2020**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Co-Chair Senator Malcolm Augustine
- Co-Chair Delegate Tony Bridges
- Ian Beam – MDOT OPCP
- Chris Costello – Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc.
- Dan Dalton – KFH Group
- John Duklewski – Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc.
- Melissa Einhorn – MDOT OGA
- Scott Gibson – Greater Washington Board of Trade
- Mike DiGiacomo – Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Pilar Helm – MDOT OGA
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Travis Johnston – MDOT MTA
- Rodney Lee – Maryland Nonprofits, Catholic Charities
- Kenneth Lemberg – Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Toneaya Moore – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Loniam Muckle – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Rene Parker – Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc.
- Martin Schwartz – Vehicles for Change
- Adrea Turner – Greater Baltimore Committee

### **Presentation on The Maryland Five-Year Human Services Transportation Draft Plan by Travis Johnston and Dan Dalton**

#### **Group Discussion and Comment Period**

- High level of detail included in the report as efforts across the State were reviewed, including but not limited to MDOT and MDOT MTA
- Draft plan incorporates knowledge of existing regional gaps in transportation through the inclusion of local and regional plans
  - MDOT will gather a more statewide demonstration of this
- Information from Workforce Development organizations was included to draft the Plan
  - Additionally, Jobs Access and Reverse Commute began in 2018 and is tasked with specifically targeting workforce barriers due to transportation

**Next meeting: January 7<sup>th</sup>, tentatively 1:00pm**

**Adjournment**

**Key Contact Information:**

- Chair Augustine: malcolm.augustine@senate.state.md.us
- Chair Bridges: bridges.tony@house.state.md.us
- Travis Johnston: tjohnston@mdot.maryland.gov
- Dan Dalton: ddalton@kfhgroup.com
- Ian Beam: ibeam@mdot.maryland.gov
- Melissa Einhorn: meinhorn@mdot.maryland.gov

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**January 6, 2021**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Co-Chair Senator Malcolm Augustine
- Co-Chair Delegate Tony Bridges
- Ian Beam – MDOT OPCP
- Dan Dalton – KFH Group
- John Duklewski – Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc.
- Melissa Einhorn – MDOT OGA
- Jeannie Fazio – MDOT MTA
- Kimberly Gscheidle – Department of Health
- Mike DiGiacomo – Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Pilar Helm – MDOT OGA
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Kenneth Lemberg – Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Robin McKinney – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Toneaya Moore – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Lonia Muckle – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Martin Schwartz – Vehicles for Change
- Delegate Dana Stein
- Adrea Turner – Greater Baltimore Committee

### **Introduction and Welcome – Sen. Augustine & Del. Bridges**

### **Outline of Subcommittees – Sen. Augustine & Del. Bridges**

- Discussed the use of subcommittees to enhance the efforts of the Task Force
- Highlighted that subcommittees are outlined in the language of the legislation that established the Task Force

### **Group Discussion and Comment Period**

- Possible subcommittees:
  - Transportation and rural counties – Lack of data and information for these areas, as much of the focus is on urban areas
  - Environment
  - Agreed upon using the topics outlined in the legislation to create the four subcommittees:
    - Employment
    - Education and Training
    - Health and Rehabilitation Services
    - Other Social Services

- Need to review current information
  - Request for MDOT to pull together a comprehensive view of the State's disparity in transportation access
  - Suggestion of creating a list of studies that have previously been conducted and building subcommittees from there
  - Request for MDOT MTA to provide local transit studies with needs assessments
- Despite subcommittees, there is a need to think creatively and from a large scope – while you can address transportation, it is necessary to review other barriers

### **Subcommittee Membership and Structure**

- Members were asked to respond through the Chat feature of which subcommittee they would like to be a part of. Those that responded:
  - CASH Campaign of Maryland- Employment or training and education
  - Vehicles for Change – Employment
  - Department of Health – Employment
  - COMMUTE with Enterprise – Employment
  - Greater Baltimore Committee – Employment or training and education
  - Transportation Association of Maryland, Inc. – Health and rehab
  - MDOT MTA – Health and rehab
- Subcommittees will review current information and possibly have subject matter experts present material
- Agreed upon the need for subcommittee chairs to have open communication
- MDOT will follow up to finalize subcommittee membership
- Subcommittees will establish leadership and will provide direction before next full Task Force meeting to have a level of coordination
- Suggested that subcommittees meet once a month

**Next meeting: May 6<sup>th</sup>, tentatively 1:00pm**

### **Adjournment**

#### **Key Contact Information:**

- Chair Augustine: malcolm.augustine@senate.state.md.us
- Chair Bridges: bridges.tony@house.state.md.us
- Ian Beam: ibeam@mdot.maryland.gov
- Melissa Einhorn: meinhorn@mdot.maryland.gov

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**May 6, 2021**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Co-Chair Senator Malcolm Augustine
- Ian Beam – MDOT OPCP
- Mike DiGiacomo – Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Melissa Einhorn – MDOT OGA
- Scott Gibson – Greater Washington Board of Trade
- Pilar Helm – MDOT OGA
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Travis Johnston – MDOT MTA
- Ande Kolp – The Arc Maryland
- Robin McKinney – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Toneaya Moore – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Lonja Muckle – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Molly O’Hara – MDOT OGA
- Martin Schwartz – Vehicles for Change

### **Introduction from Co-Chair: Senator Malcolm Augustine**

#### **Employment Subcommittee Update**

- Provide avenues to expand car ownership
- Enterprise programs that are economically effective for the company and the customer, like van-pooling
  - Talking to large employment centers like Johns Hopkins and Fort Meade who were interested in van-pooling
  - Get folks from a central area to a more rural area
- Regional commute patterns are going across jurisdictional boundaries
- Expanding paratransit options and improving customer service

#### **Group Discussion and Comment Period**

- Commuter Connections facilitates van-pooling in Maryland and is a federally funded program. It has a state-wide database that matches individuals with routes
- Other subcommittees will be reporting out at the next meeting

### **Adjournment and Next Meeting: July 1**

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**July 1, 2021**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Co-Chair Senator Malcolm Augustine
- Debbie Balea – Maryland Department of Health
- Ian Beam – MDOT OPCP
- Samantha Blizzard – Maryland Department of Social Services
- Co-Chair Delegate Tony Bridges
- Christopher Dews – Job Opportunities Task Force
- Mike Digiacoimo – Maryland Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- John Duklewski – Transportation Association of Maryland
- Melissa Einhorn – MDOT OGA
- Scott Gibson – Greater Washington Board of Trade (Melwood)
- Mary Handley – Delmarva Community Services, Inc.
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Travis Johnston – MDOT Office of Local Transit Support
- Ande Kolp – The Arc Maryland
- Rodney Lee – Maryland Nonprofits
- Robin McKinney – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Tonaeya Moore – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Loniam Muckle – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Molly O’Hara – MDOT OGA
- Martin Schwartz – Vehicles for Change

### **Introduction from Co-Chair: Delegate Tony Bridges**

#### **Health and Rehabilitation Subcommittee Update**

- Recommendations presented:
  - Greater and more consistent funding for LOTS program
  - Expand communication efforts and access for Transportation Development Plans during their public comment periods
  - Fluid collaboration between all the various transportation providers and incentivize others to become transportation providers
  - Data collection on times and trips to understand where changes can be made
- Routes are currently inefficient with vans and buses; there is a lot of difficulty moving people across county lines

#### **Education and Training Subcommittee Update**

- Recommendations presented:

- Digitizing Information Sessions
- Providing Bus Tokens or Gas Cards for when information sessions must be in-person
- Ride-Sharing Program in rural areas to help people get from their low-cost housing to training and jobs in the city
- Low-Cost Auto Insurance Program for low-income housing
- Overriding the Transit Safety and Investment Act veto
- Streamlining the process to reinstate licenses should they be suspended due to lack of child-support payments
- Many trade jobs require DL or equivalent due to the nature of the job

### **Group Discussion and Comment Period**

- Committee will spend the next 30 days processing all of the recommendations; a Powerpoint will be provided
- Initial decisions will be made during the next meeting

### **Adjournment**



## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**August 10, 2021**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Co-Chair Senator Malcolm Augustine
- Ian Beam – MDOT OPCP
- Co-Chair Delegate Tony Bridges
- Christopher Dews – Job Opportunities Task Force
- Mike DiGiacomo – Maryland Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Melissa Einhorn – MDOT OGA
- Donald Fry – Greater Baltimore Committee
- Mary Handley – Delmarva Community Services, Inc.
- Pilar Helm – MDOT OGA
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Travis Johnston – MDOT MTA
- Ande Kolp – The Arc Maryland
- Rodney Lee – Maryland Nonprofits
- Tonaeya Moore – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Lonia Muckle – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Heather Murphy – MDOT OPCP
- Molly O’Hara – MDOT OGA
- Kathleen Walker – Department of Health

### **Introduction: Delegate Tony Bridges**

#### **Employment Recommendations Discussion**

- Del. Stein’s preferred recommendations were (1) the Car Ownership Programs and (2) the Car/Van/Bus Pool
- A request that paratransit programs be highlighted
  - COVID-19 impacts to transportation in addition to lacking a regional paratransit program
  - Reviewing and improving existing programs
- Possibility of combining or concentrating on the first three recommendations

#### **Health and Rehabilitation Recommendations Discussion**

- Del. Stein’s preferred recommendations were (1) Funding for LOTS Programs and (2) Improving Collaboration between Medical Transportation Providers
- Combining (3) Outreach and (4) Increase Transportation Transparency was suggested. A strategic communication plan would highlight improvements in rollout and interagency cooperation

- Outreach and Increased Transportation Transparency may be a part of all subcommittee recommendations
- Overall, the recommendations differ between the creation of better services and the utilization of existing services

### **Education and Training Recommendations Discussion**

- Del. Stein's preferred recommendations were (1) Digitizing Information Sessions and (3) Low-Cost Auto Insurance Program
- Discussion of the Transit Safety and Investment Act and if there will be a veto in the 2022 legislative session
- (2) Ride-Sharing in Rural Areas and (3) Low-Cost Auto Insurance Program were the two recommendations the subcommittee concentrated on
- License suspensions and child support obligations were mentioned as barriers to employment
- Digitizing Information Sessions are important but may not be a strong focus when discussing transportation access

### **Group Discussion and Comment Period**

- It is recommended that some of the recommendations overlap and can be combined; it may not be necessary to propose two recommendations from each subcommittee, but to look at them all
- It is key to propose recommendations that apply to and would benefit all people
- The Co-Chairs will be meeting with MDOT staff to discuss combining and finalizing recommendations before sending back out to the Task Force for review and input
- Next meeting will take place in September after Labor Day.

### **Adjournment**

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**September 14, 2021**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Ian Beam – MDOT OPCP
- Co-Chair Delegate Tony Bridges
- Christopher Dews – Job Opportunities Task Force
- Mike DiGiacomo – Maryland Governor’s Workforce Development Board
- Scott Gibson – Greater Washington Board of Trade
- Melissa Einhorn – MDOT OGA
- Pilar Helm – MDOT OGA
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Travis Johnston – MDOT MTA
- Rodney Lee – Maryland Nonprofits
- Tonaeya Moore – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Lonia Muckle – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Heather Murphy – MDOT OPCP
- Molly O’Hara – MDOT OGA

### **Introduction: Delegate Tony Bridges**

### **Review of the Consolidated Recommendations for Consideration: Pilar Helm**

- Expand Independent Transit Access/Mobility
  - Expand vehicle ownership programs
  - Consider low-cost auto insurance program
- Improve Efficiency and Capacity within Assisted Transit Access
  - Improve on-demand paratransit programs
  - Improve collaboration between medical transportation providers
- Close the Access Gap with Different Types of Transit Modes
  - Create and promote ride sharing and invest in “pooling”
- Increase Accessibility and Utilization of Existing Mass Transit Access
  - Increase outreach and transparency

### **Full Task Force Discussion**

- Make the correction to include *Commute with Enterprise* as an example of ride sharing/pooling under Recommendation 3
- Discussion of the consideration of carbon emissions if we work to expand vehicle ownership programs

- The goal of the Recommendation is not to get more people on the road, but to get more people to work and their destinations, equalizing access to resources across socioeconomic statuses
- For those who can pool, consider how to get them in the same general area
- Suggested edit to change Recommendation 1 to focus more on access programs opposed to ownership programs

### **Next Steps**

- Determined that MDOT staff will be pulling together a framework of the report and will be sending out to the full Task Force to review and edit
- At that point, if subcommittees prefer to get back together, they can do so to work on the draft report
- The goal for a draft final report, complete with comments from the group, is November 1<sup>st</sup> to allow MDOT staff to complete the report in time for the December 1<sup>st</sup> due date
- There will be one final meeting of the full Task Force between November 1<sup>st</sup> and Thanksgiving

### **Adjournment**

## **Task Force to Study Transportation Access**

**November 19, 2021**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

### **Participants Attending:**

- Co-Chair Senator Malcolm Augustine
- Co-Chair Delegate Tony Bridges
- Donald Fry – Greater Baltimore Committee
- Pilar Helm – MDOT OGA
- Mark Hudson – COMMUTE with Enterprise
- Travis Johnston – MDOT MTA
- Ande Kolp – The ARC Maryland
- Lonia Muckle – CASH Campaign of Maryland
- Heather Murphy – MDOT OPCP

### **Introduction: Co-Chairs Senator Augustine and Delegate Bridges**

### **Review of the Draft Final Report**

- Discussion about the specificity of the report – recommendations are broad enough that they can serve to support more specific work in the future
- Overall, Task Force members are proud of the report – no amendments or edits were offered

### **Next Steps**

- MDOT will submit the report and ensure the Task Force members receive a copy of the formal submission

### **Adjournment**