

Sayers, Margery

From: Albert Holm <holm_albert@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 8:02 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please vote for CB4 - Public Transportation Improvements

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

For equity for all Howard County citizens, to reduce congestion on Howard County streets, and to reduce exhaust pollution in our air, please vote for CB4.

Albert Holm

Sayers, Margery

From: ASTAMAY CURTIS <curtis2209@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2023 7:21 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Re: Support of CB 4-2023

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

> On Jan 16, 2023, at 6:36 PM, ASTAMAY CURTIS <curtis2209@msn.com> wrote:

>

>

January,17, 2023

>

> Howard County Council,

>

> I am submitting this statement in support of Howard County Council Bill 4-2023 for the development of the Transit Service Improvement Fund. This fund will provide some of the necessary capital to help the Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland enhance the fixed route service, which will help promote an increased ridership. Increasing transit ridership will decrease the number of vehicles on our roads, which in turn will reduce the effects of climate change.

>

> Respectfully,

>

> Astamay Curtis

> Ellicott City, MD



CB4-2023 - Transit Services Improvement Fund - Rideshare (Uber, Lyft etc.) Trips - Assessments

**Testimony before
Howard County Council**

January 17, 2023

Position: Favorable

Dear Council Members,

My name is Ruth Auerbach, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing testimony today to **support CB4**, to impose an assessment on ride-share services to fund a Transit Services Investment Fund for fixed-route transit service. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are grateful for the leadership of Councilwoman Rigby for sponsoring this bill.

Improving the fixed route transit service would provide many benefits. While this bill does not specify in detail how the fund will be used, there are examples, such as Seattle and San Antonio, for which funding that increases frequency and hours of service increase ridership.[1]

Further, studies have shown that ride-sharing services tend to decrease use of public transit and increase road congestion.[2] [3] A small fee for ride-sharing services will help replace some of the lost revenue that ride-sharing causes for the RTA.

I am an occasional rider of the 503 RTA bus to work. More frequent service and reliably having a bicycle rack on the bus are some improvements that would make this a better option for me.

Further, we strongly support the bill's intentions as described in the preamble.

We respectfully urge passage of this bill.

Ruth Auerbach
9455 Clocktower Lane
Columbia, MD 21046

[1]: Birenbaum, Gabby, "The bipartisan infrastructure bill provides historic funding for transit. It's not enough.", Vox, August 23, 2021, <https://www.vox.com/22621793/public-transit-funding-bipartisan-infrastructure-bill>.

[2]: Ionescu, Diana, "Study: Ride-Sharing Increases Urban Congestion", Planetizen, April 28, 2021, <https://www.planetizen.com/news/2021/04/113123-study-ride-sharing-increases-urban-congestion>

[3]: Clewlow, Regina R., "New Research on How Ride-Hailing Impacts Travel Behavior", Planetizen, October 11, 2017, <https://www.planetizen.com/features/95227-new-research-how-ride-hailing-impacts-travel-behavior>