September 24, 2025

Maryland Department of Transportation

7201 Corporate Center Drive

Hanover, Maryland 21076

secretary@mdot.maryland.gov

Dear Maryland Department of Transportation,

[Your Organization, or Hello my name is NAME and I] enthusiastically support[s] the advancement of transportation projects throughout Frederick County and appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the draft FY2026 – FY2031 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). As a steadfast advocate for the economic mobility of ALICE households, those that are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed, [Your Organization is or I am] deeply committed to resolving the daily challenges faced by thousands of local families.

Transportation is a critical factor in determining the quality of life for ALICE families. When public transit options are comprehensive and affordable, they open doors to opportunity and help break down barriers that can perpetuate cycles of poverty. By investing in robust transportation initiatives, we strengthen the foundation of our community and promote greater equity for all residents.

ALICE households represent 33% of Frederick County’s population and form the backbone of our local workforce. These families include childcare providers, retail associates, nurses, teachers, and countless others who contribute to our community every day. Despite their essential roles, ALICE individuals frequently encounter transportation barriers that threaten their long-term stability and limit their ability to fully participate in our thriving local economy.

**Funding for Publicly Available Transportation**To address critical transportation issues, we urge the CTP to prioritize resources that will ensure the long-term sustainability of Frederick County’s locally operated Transit as a fare-free service while also enabling critical investments in additional routes, higher frequency of service, and a growing transit presence in rural areas. Making public transit more accessible and convenient ensures that families can rely on these services to meet their daily needs. Additionally, we call for investments in microtransit innovations such as the Ride United Network (RUN). With over 30,000 rides provided to ALICE individuals and families, RUN leverages a national rideshare partnership and local nonprofit collaborations to fill transportation gaps. RUN provides flexible mobility solutions for clients who might otherwise be left without options to get to work, healthcare appointments, education opportunities, and so much more.

**Need for Bus Shelters**

Expanding bus shelters throughout Frederick County, particularly in neighborhoods with high concentrations of ALICE families, is another essential investment. Shelters are not merely amenities; they serve as critical infrastructure for Transit riders and offer protection from increasingly challenging weather conditions due to a changing climate. Shelters improve safety and dignity for all users, including families with young children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. MDOT can help Frederick County accelerate this work which will strengthen Transit ridership and advance the County’s broader equity, accessibility, and sustainability goals.

**Crosswalk Improvements Connected to Route 15 Redevelopment**

Furthermore, substantial upgrades to pedestrian and bicycle crossings at the expanded interchange segments and on/off ramps within the Route 15 redevelopment project are urgently needed. Safe crossings are fundamental to empowering residents to walk and cycle with confidence. Improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks will especially benefit ALICE families who rely on active and multiple transportation modes. Enhancing accessibility for those who are hard of hearing and/or blind is also a significant consideration. These upgrades not only enhance safety, but also promote wellness, reduce emissions, and foster a greater sense of connection within our neighborhoods. When people are able to walk and bike safely, the entire community thrives.

In light of these needs, we respectfully urge the prioritization of essential Frederick County transportation projects within the Consolidated Transportation Program. Such investments directly address the challenges faced by ALICE households while generating broad benefits for all residents. By further supporting Frederick County’s Transit, funding innovative microtransit initiatives, expanding shelter infrastructure, and upgrading pedestrian and bicycle crossings, we can ensure that every resident — regardless of income — has the opportunity to participate fully in our thriving local economy.

Thank you for your commitment to enhancing transportation equity and accessibility for all residents in Maryland.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name and Title, if applicable]

[Your Organization, if applicable]