Baltimore City Transit Initiatives: Enhancing Accessibility and Equity

Summary

Baltimore City is committed to transforming its public transit system through comprehensive initiatives designed to improve accessibility, efficiency, and economic mobility. Our strategic approach focuses on multiple interconnected efforts that will strengthen urban transportation infrastructure and support equitable community development.

Key Transit Initiatives

1. Locally-Operated Transit Services

The city provides free, locally-operated transit services through the Charm City Circulator and Harbor Connector. These services connect residents, tourists, and commuters to critical job centers and destinations. Planned capital improvements include:

- Bus stop enhancements
- Pier and docking infrastructure expansion
- Harbor Connector vessel replacements

2. Infrastructure and Connectivity Investments

Bus Stop Improvements

- Requested budget: $300,000 for bus stop relocation and construction
- Objectives: Improve system efficiency and enhance network connectivity
- Guided by the comprehensive Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

- Promotes mixed-use development near key transit hubs
- Focus areas: Penn Station, Westport, and Reisterstown Plaza
- Goal: Integrate land use with transportation infrastructure

3. Transit Performance Enhancements

Operational Improvements

- Expansion of dedicated bus lanes
- Implementation of transit signal priority
- Pedestrian infrastructure upgrades meeting ADA standards
- Focus on improving safety, reliability, and system performance

Strategic Technical Support

- $262,000 allocated for Transit Development Plan execution

- Priorities: New route implementation

- Target areas: Underserved communities like Cherry Hill

4. Water Transit Strategic Plan

A comprehensive Harbor Connector study will optimize water transit services, supported by a $5.1 million Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant for:

- New ferry acquisitions

- Dock infrastructure improvements

5. Redline Priority

The Redline project remains a critical initiative for Baltimore, aimed at:

- Enhancing economic mobility

- Improving regional connectivity

- Supporting comprehensive urban transportation strategy

Conclusion

These multifaceted transit initiatives demonstrate Baltimore City's commitment to creating a robust, accessible, and equitable transportation ecosystem that supports community growth and economic development.

Anne Arundel County Transportation Strategy: Advancing Mobility and Sustainability

Summary

Anne Arundel County is pioneering a transformative approach to public transit, focusing on infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, and enhanced regional connectivity. Our strategic initiatives aim to reduce vehicle dependency, promote multimodal transportation, and support economic growth through innovative transit solutions.

Key Transportation Initiatives

1. Parole Transportation Center

Project Overview

- Regional transit center located in Annapolis
- Current status: Design phase in progress
- Funding objectives:
    - Secure additional state support
    - Pursue MDOT Climate Focused Funding
- Benefits: Enhancing County and Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) operational capabilities

2. Locally Operated Transit System (LOTS) Expansion

Service Enhancement Strategy

- Microtransit service expansion to underserved areas
- Improved local bus service coverage and frequency
- Transition to electric vehicle fleet
    - Seeking state partnership for electrification
- Focus on inclusivity and environmental stewardship

3. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

Strategic Development Sites

- **Cromwell Light Rail Station**
    - Formalized as official TOD site
- **Odenton MARC Station**
    - Parking garage development
    - Funded through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District
- **Additional TOD Priorities**
    - Laurel Racetrack MARC Station revitalization
    - Improved pedestrian connectivity
    - Focus on Dorsey Station accessibility

4. Chesapeake Bay Passenger Ferry

Innovative Water Transit Concept

- Proposed high-speed, electric ferry service
- Key objectives:
    - Connect multiple Chesapeake Bay ports
    - Enhance multi-modal transportation
    - Promote regional tourism
    - Demonstrate environmental innovation

5. Transportation Operations Facility

Infrastructure Modernization

- Temporary facility design in progress
- Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure development
- Supporting fleet electrification strategy

6. Regional Service Expansion

Commuter Transportation Enhancement

- Proposed new commuter bus service
- Route: Annapolis to major employment centers
- Target destinations:
    - Fort Meade
    - Columbia

Conclusion

Anne Arundel County's comprehensive transit strategy represents a bold vision for sustainable, efficient, and inclusive transportation. By integrating technological innovation, environmental consciousness, and strategic infrastructure development, the county is positioning itself as a leader in modern urban mobility.

Baltimore County Transit Initiatives

Summary

Baltimore County is pursuing an ambitious and multifaceted approach to transit development, focusing on connectivity, economic growth, and sustainable transportation solutions across the region.

Strategic Transit Priorities

1. Regional Transit Connectivity

Red Line Project

- Addressing decades-long east-west transit infrastructure gap
- Developed six preliminary alternatives
- Preferred mode: Light rail
- Aims to enhance regional mobility and accessibility

Eastern Baltimore County Access Study

- Evaluating transit corridors extending from Red Line project
- Focus on connecting key areas:
  - Tradepoint Atlantic job center
  - Population centers (Essex, Dundalk, Turner's Station)
- Seeking both short-term and long-term transit recommendations

2. Targeted Transit Services

TradePoint Atlantic Transit Expansion

- Supporting transit to the region's largest job growth center
- Current employment: Over 12,000 employees
- Proposed transit service connections:
  - Western Baltimore County
  - City of Baltimore
  - Eastern County communities
    - Middle River, Essex, Dundalk, Sparrows Point

3. Locally Operated Transit Services (LOTS)

Service Development

- Expanding fixed-route and on-demand microtransit services

- Ongoing studies for circulators in Owings Mills and Catonsville
- Supporting last-mile connectivity to MTA fixed-route services
- Focused on serving disabled populations and underserved areas

4. Proposed MTA Initiatives

- Local Link 35: New adaptive service supporting economic corridors
- Exploring new bus operations facility
- Seeking supplemental capital funding for transit expansion

5. Sustainable Transit Infrastructure

Electric Transit Transformation

- Requesting electric bus purchase options
- Seeking funding for electric transit vehicles
- Goal: Enhance service and reduce emissions

6. Regional Transit Planning

Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan (CMRTP)

- Supporting detailed corridor studies
- Prioritizing inter-jurisdictional east-west and north-south corridors
- Advocating for equitable, high-quality transit service
- Emphasizing connectivity between local and state transit systems

Key Objectives

- Expand transit accessibility
- Support economic development
- Enhance multi-modal transportation options
- Reduce transportation inequities
- Implement sustainable transit solutions

Conclusion

Baltimore County is committed to creating a comprehensive, innovative transit network that meets the diverse mobility needs of its residents, supports economic growth, and promotes sustainable urban development.

Howard County Transit Initiatives

Executive Summary

Howard County is advancing a sophisticated, multi-dimensional transportation strategy focusing on regional connectivity, sustainable mobility, and infrastructure enhancement across key transit corridors.

Strategic Transit Priorities

1. Regional Transit Corridor Development

Key Corridor Initiatives

- **East-West Connectivity**
    - Connecting Ellicott City to Baltimore Convention Center
    - Linking West Baltimore to Hopkins Bayview
- **North-South Corridor Expansion**
    - Morgan State University to South Baltimore route
    - Towson to UM Transit Center connection

2. Corridor-Specific Transit Improvements

US 1 Corridor Enhancement

- MARC Camden Line Service Optimization
    - Remove at-grade crossings
    - Increase service frequency and reliability
- Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Initiatives
    - US 1 Safety Evaluation project
    - Bike Howard and Walk Howard program implementation

US 29 Corridor Transformation

- North-South Connector (Jug Handle) Project
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Improvements
- Regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Planning
    - Integration with Montgomery County's Flash service
    - Expanded central Maryland transit corridor planning
- Address connectivity challenges near Rivers Edge Road

3. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

Strategic Development Zones

- Downtown Columbia TOD designation

- Laurel Park/City of Laurel MARC Station area development

- Focused multimodal access improvements

    - MD 175 corridor enhancements

    - MD 108 mobility corridor development

4. Capital and Infrastructure Investments

Fleet and Infrastructure Modernization

- Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Fleet Renewal

    - Purchase of new buses

    - Transition to zero-emission vehicle technology

Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure

- Implementation of Bicycle Master Plan

    - Shared-use pathway development

    - Comprehensive wayfinding systems

5. Technical and Financial Support

Strategic Funding Initiatives

- Grant acquisition for transit projects

- Infrastructure improvement funding

- Support for emerging transit technologies

Key Objectives

- Enhance regional transit connectivity

- Improve transportation equity

- Promote sustainable mobility solutions

- Develop multimodal transportation infrastructure

- Support economic development through strategic transit investments

Conclusion

Howard County is committed to creating an innovative, comprehensive transit network that meets diverse mobility needs, supports regional economic growth, and prioritizes sustainable urban transportation solutions.