



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE**

HB 924 Transportation – Regional Transportation Authorities

POSITION: Support

BY: Linda Kohn, LWVMD President

Date: March 1, 2024

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) agrees with HB 924 that establishes regional transportation systems. Having separate area plans for transportation systems that are relevant to those particular areas with designated funding can be more effective and efficient. Having Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) consult with the office of the comptroller in establishing such commissions is wise.

The positions of LWVMD substantiate the establishment of regional authorities. We believe that regional visions and frameworks for transportation have the opportunity to reflect local concerns in the process of planning an effective transportation system. LWVMD also believes that these regional authorities may promote the use of mass transit and decrease the dependency on single occupancy vehicles. "We support public participation and supervision in determining information needed and in evaluating transportation proposals, transportation planning, and operations." The bill specifies a variety of people to serve on the separate authorities that include both those who know the area locally like those elected and transportation experts.

Perhaps this bill acknowledges the effectiveness of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and models its commissions from it. We know there are many functions of that Authority. Learning effective management of transportation from neighboring jurisdictions shows both flexibility and good judgment. Maryland should learn from others.

Would having these separate authorities have ameliorated some current day problems? We know that there are a number of problems in our transportation system currently.

LWVMD urges a favorable report on HB 924.