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Senator Kagan Urges Governor Hogan to Fund Added Transportation During SafeTrack Delays & Closures: Costs Could Reach $1,000,000

Annapolis, MD: In order to ensure sufficient, reliable transit alternatives during Metro’s SafeTrack maintenance to the Red Line, Senator Cheryl Kagan sent a letter to Governor Larry Hogan to pressure his Administration to cover the costs for needed supplemental bus transportation. The Red Line will be single-tracking in Montgomery County for a significant part of August, and a segment will be completely closed in Prince George’s County through much of October.

For just the Montgomery County portion of the Red Line, the estimated expense of increased bus service for up to 50,000 people who commute Down-County and into Washington, DC could be as much as $1,000,000.

In her letter, Kagan wrote:

“Because it is the State of Maryland that is a member of the WMATA compact, I believe it should be the State — and not the County — that provides funding for this emergency transportation issue... It is vital that frequent, reliable, and comfortable buses replace Metro to meet the transit needs for those commuting to work.”

“I often describe my Senate District as ‘up the Red Line,’ so I am always concerned about any impending challenges to my constituents and to the rest of Montgomery and Frederick County commuters who choose WMATA.”

According to Kagan, “Our State government shouldn’t assume that Montgomery County will open its checkbook to pay for services that should be covered by the State.”

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