

# HOUSE BILL 563

R2

8lr1584

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By: **Delegates George and V. Clagett**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Annapolis Light Rail – Feasibility Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation to study the  
4 feasibility of funding and constructing light rail transit facilities in a certain  
5 corridor in the Annapolis area and to report its findings and recommendations  
6 by a certain date; requiring the Department to use existing resources to conduct  
7 the study and to make findings and recommendations; providing for the  
8 termination of this Act; and generally relating to a feasibility study of light rail  
9 transit in the Annapolis area.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, Traffic in the West Street corridor of Annapolis is excessively  
12 congested and population density in that area continues to increase with the  
13 construction of many new developments, including Park Place and 1901 West Street;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, For a number of years in the early 20th century – from 1908 until  
16 1935 – an Annapolis trolley rail system was located, in part, along West Street; and

17 WHEREAS, Technology now exists that better enables light rail trains to share  
18 more effectively and safely street rights-of-way with vehicular traffic; and

19 WHEREAS, Light rail trains that allow easier ground level access for both  
20 able-bodied and disabled riders also are now commercially available; now, therefore,

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That:

23 (a) The Maryland Department of Transportation shall undertake a study to  
24 consider the feasibility of funding and constructing light rail transit facilities in the

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 West Street corridor of Annapolis between the Historic District of Annapolis and the  
2 Town Center at Parole.

3 (b) On or before December 1, 2009, the Maryland Department of  
4 Transportation shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in  
5 accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland  
7 Department of Transportation shall use existing resources to conduct the study and  
8 make findings and recommendations as specified under Section 1 of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 July 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the  
11 end of December 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
12 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.