



HB 836: Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Terps For Bike Lanes – FAVORABLE

February 6, 2024

Chair Korman and Committee Members,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of Terps For Bike Lanes to express our support for the proposed legislation that requires the Department of Transportation to establish a process for performing major highway capacity expansion project impact assessments. Terps for Bike Lanes believes that such assessments are essential for responsible and sustainable infrastructure development, and this legislation represents a significant step towards achieving that goal.

The legislation mandates that the Department of Transportation establish a systematic process for impact assessments for major highway capacity expansion projects. This process will provide valuable insights into the potential effects of such projects on the environment, communities, and transportation systems. The Department is mandated to use the impact assessment findings to determine whether a project meets certain requirements. This ensures that decisions regarding highway capacity expansion are informed by a comprehensive understanding of the potential impacts, fostering responsible and well-informed decision-making.

Research has shown that conducting impact assessments for major infrastructure projects leads to more efficient resource allocation. Understanding potential challenges in advance allows for proactive planning and allocating resources to address specific issues, contributing to project success. Impact assessments are vital for considering major projects' community and environmental aspects. They provide a platform for evaluating the potential social, economic, and environmental consequences, ensuring a more holistic and sustainable approach to infrastructure development. The legislation promotes transparent decision-making by requiring the Department to use the impact assessment to determine project eligibility. This transparency fosters public trust and ensures that decisions align with the community's best interests. Terps for Bike Lanes believes this legislation is a positive step towards responsible infrastructure development. By mandating impact assessments and requiring the development of mitigation plans, the proposed legislation demonstrates a commitment to holistic planning, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. We urge a Favorable committee

report on this legislation and encourage the House to pass it on the floor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

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