



**516 N. Charles Street, Suite 312 - Baltimore, Maryland 21201**

**Testimony on HB 437 / SB59**

**Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026**

**House Appropriations Committee / Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

**Date: February 10, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Transit Choices strongly supports **HB 437 / SB59**, which would cut pollution from Maryland's highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking.

Transportation is Maryland's #1 source of climate pollution and the second largest expense behind housing. Maryland families deserve more affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation choices. By prioritizing projects that expand public transit and active transportation infrastructure, the **Transportation and Climate Alignment Act** will ensure that every Marylander has equitable access to opportunities like jobs, education, and healthcare.

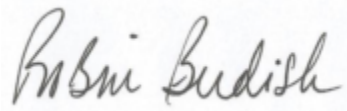
**HB 437 / SB59** would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of all major transportation projects and align the state's capital transportation budget with Maryland's climate goals, as required by the Climate Solutions Now Act. For major highway expansion projects over \$100 million, MDOT must offset pollution with cleaner transportation options - like public transit, bike paths, and pedestrian infrastructure - and prioritize investments in overburdened and underserved communities.

We believe that Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, which are harmful to the environment and human health. Our goal for every Marylander is to protect human health, preserve the environment for present and future generations, and ensure sustainable development.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, **HB 437 / SB59** would protect our health, reduce traffic congestion, and save consumers money - [an average of more than \\$3,000 per household each year on vehicle costs](#). Investing in more efficient, lower-maintenance infrastructure can also reduce the state's long-term costs. New analysis shows Maryland could achieve approximately **\$550 million per year in net savings by 2050** by building out bus rapid transit, protected bike lanes, and passenger rail.

We strongly urge a **favorable report on HB 437 / SB59**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Budish". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Robin Budish  
Director

410.528.8696