



The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 4, 2026

House Bill 437 – Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026) – Favorable

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Mark Clements and I serve as the Maryland Policy Manager for [Greater Greater Washington](#) (GGWash), a nonprofit that works to advance sustainability and equity in housing, land use, and transportation throughout Greater Washington and beyond. **GGWash strongly supports House Bill 437, the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act**, which would allow the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to offset pollution from major highway expansion projects with investments in infrastructure for public transit, walking, and biking.

HB 437 would require MDOT to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of major transportation projects, and align the state's capital transportation budget with Maryland's climate goals. For 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.

These provisions will internalize the costs of the transportation sector that are not currently being accounted for. Maryland residents are currently bearing the costs of car-centric transportation infrastructure through increased transportation costs, air pollution, and reduced choice. Those who cannot or do not drive also pay in lost opportunities, reduced healthcare access, and in significantly increased transit time when public transit options are limited or unreliable.

By prioritizing projects that expand public transit and active transportation infrastructure, we can ensure that Marylanders have the ability to choose what mode of transportation suits their needs. The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act will support equitable access for every Marylander to job opportunities, education, and healthcare. We ask that the Appropriations Committee give this bill a favorable report.

With candor and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Clements, Jr.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark A. Clements, Jr.
Maryland Policy Manager
Greater Greater Washington