

February 6,2026

Committee: Appropriations

Testimony on: HB 0437 Transportation-Major Highway Capacity and Expansion Projects and Impacts Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act (2026))

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 10, 2026

I am a resident, voter, and taxpayer in Silver Spring (District 18). I write in support of HB 0437 (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act). This bill requires MDOT to perform an impact assessment of certain highway expansion projects and to develop an equivalent multi-modal transportation program to mitigate the impact of the greenhouse gas emissions caused by the project.

I live close to Georgia Avenue, just south of I-495 (the Beltway) and am confronted daily with the congestion and attendant pollution from gas powered vehicle tailpipe emissions. These emissions already threaten our health and well-being but their harmful effects will increase exponentially over time if we do not find a way to address them. We need to reduce single gas powered vehicle use and/or counterbalance the effects of the resultant pollution. We need to re-think the priority we place on cars as our primary means of transportation. We should invest in other more affordable transportation choices, including public transportation, walkable, and bikeable communities which would help reduce emissions but also lower transportation costs, improve access to jobs and create healthier lifestyle opportunities.

The TCA is a common-sense, cost-friendly, and balanced approach to accomplish these goals. It will provide a greater understanding of the potential harmful impacts of highway expansion projects, will prioritize maintaining our existing highway infrastructure over expansion and incentivize healthier and less expensive transportation choices including public transportation. Other states, like Colorado, that have utilized similar approaches have seen significant beneficial results.

I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.

Thank you.

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