

**CCAN Action Fund * Central Maryland Transportation Alliance * Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Clean Water Action * Coalition for Smarter Growth * Environment Maryland
Maryland Legislative Coalition * Maryland PIRG * Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Smart Growth Maryland * Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland**

HB 351 - Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup

Environment & Transportation

February 12, 2019

Position: SUPPORT

The transportation sector is Maryland's largest generator of greenhouse gases. To address the climate crisis and achieve the State's statutory goal of a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030, a comprehensive strategy to reduce vehicle miles traveled must be developed and implemented. To that end, we support HB 351 which will establish a Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup.

As outlined in HB 351, the Workgroup is tasked with identifying business incentives, State and local land use policies, and transportation policies, investments, and programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled, improve access to transit, and foster transit oriented development (TOD).

TOD is characterized by compact, mixed-use communities with a variety of housing types and employment opportunities. Walkability and convenient access to transit allow residents and to live car-free or car-light, significantly reducing household expenses associated with transportation. For low-income households especially, this is of great importance. Accordingly, the Workgroup created by HB 351 will also identify incentives for affordable housing and businesses to be located near transit.

To improve quality of life for Maryland residents, promote economic development consistent with smart growth, and advance the State's emissions reduction goals, we must develop a strategy to reduce vehicle miles traveled. We respectfully request your support for HB 351.

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