



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE**

HB 351 Land Use and Vehicle Miles Traveled Workgroup

POSITION: Support

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The League of Women Voters supports regional visions and frameworks for transportation that incorporate good land use, economic development, and environmental protection. We therefore support HB 351 to gain more information about Vehicle Miles Traveled that may have future applications.

Some data is already being generated to investigate how many miles are driven in Maryland by areas within the state and by date. The state currently supports the use of alternative methods of travel including transit, biking and walking, but this study will aid in delving deeper into what is known about Maryland's transportation and land use system.

By studying Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), we have an opportunity to learn more and this knowledge may be applicable to the Transportation Trust Fund. According to the fiscal policy note, "decreasing annual VMT can directly improve air quality and the overall health of a population... some strategies that have shown success in lowering VMT include public transportation expansion and service improvement, active transportation infrastructure, and higher parking fees." We should all be concerned with both Maryland's fiscal health and the health of its residents.

This bill helps us to learn more about how land use, economics, housing, employment, and transportation relate to VMT in Maryland and it may help the state to develop a better strategy to manage a variety of issues.

LWVMD promotes the use of mass transit and alternative travel modes to help abate the use of our natural resources and promote a healthier environment. It's incumbent on us to learn as much as we can about VMT and find out how it is applicable to Maryland. We urge a favorable report on HB 351.