



Larry Hogan  
Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor  
James F. Ports, Jr.  
Secretary

March 4, 2022

The Honorable C. T. Wilson  
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee  
231 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 708 – Comprehensive Climate Solutions**

Dear Chairman Wilson and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 708 but offers the following information.

House Bill 708 presents far-reaching impacts on numerous aspects of Maryland’s transportation network, including MDOT operations and facilities, and additional data collection and reporting requirements.

As proposed, House Bill 708 would exclude the MDOT from reporting on emissions reductions that might result from “highway widening or additional road construction”. These ‘highway widening or additional road construction projects could be able to achieve the protection of “public health, economic well-being, and natural treasures of the State by reducing harmful air pollutants such as greenhouse gas emissions by using practical solutions that are already at the State’s disposal” (Environment Article, §2-1201). This would limit the MDOT and the State’s ability to pursue innovation within our existing rights of way, which is often a practical solution.

Additionally, House Bill 708 proposes a new Just Transition Employment and Retraining Working Group within the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC). Among the identified duties of this Working Group is to advise on issues and opportunities for workforce development and training related to the transportation sector. The MDOT is not currently listed as a member of the Working Group. Given the focus on emissions reduction related to transportation, there will be a significant need for ensuring that there is appropriate representation from the MDOT on this new Working Group.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee carefully consider this information when deliberating House Bill 708.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090