



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair  
Appropriations Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: March 7th, 2023  
RE: HB1052 Transportation-Consolidated Transportation

Program-Scoring

### **The MLLC supports HB1052 Transportation – Consolidated Transportation Program – Scoring**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1052.

The decision to limit the weighting disparity between different goals and different measures is an attempt to limit the impact of politics on transportation priorities. For instance, MDOT under Governor Hogan weighted congestion at 18%, while equitable access was weighted only 7%, and environment at 9%. The changes proposed in HB1052 will improve the CTP's scoring system by making it more independent from changes in gubernatorial administrations and ensure that equity cannot be treated with such low importance. Latinos are particularly vulnerable to environmental injustice. Maryland has the nation's second worst air pollution from cars, trucks and buses,<sup>1</sup> and Marylanders who face the greatest exposure to transportation pollution are those who live near highways, along major freight corridors, and in urban areas, such as in Prince George's County<sup>2</sup> and Baltimore City.<sup>3</sup> People of color make up a significant percent of the population in these areas.<sup>4</sup> A study published by the NIH in 2016 found associations between exposures to particulate matter and reduced lung function in Latino children with asthma from different geographical regions in the United States.<sup>5</sup>

HB1052 alters the project prioritization scoring system of the Consolidated Transportation Program. The alteration ensures that no goal is weighted 5% higher than the lowest-weighted goal, and no measure of each goal is weighted 10% higher than the lowest-weighted measure of each goal. This introduces adherence to smart growth design principles, transit-oriented development, and a heightened focus on environmental justice. The results of the reprioritized Consolidated Transportation Program will ensure that Latinos are not disproportionately impacted by pollution.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1052.

<sup>1</sup> [Pinto de Moura, M. C. \(2019, November 15\). \*Inequitable Exposure to Air Pollution from Vehicles in Maryland. The Equation.\*](#)

<sup>2</sup> [U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts: Prince George's county, Maryland. United States Census Bureau. \(2020\).](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Pinto de Moura, M. C. \(2019, November 15\). \*Inequitable Exposure to Air Pollution from Vehicles in Maryland. The Equation.\*](#)

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> [Neophytou AM, White MJ, Oh SS, et al. Air Pollution and Lung Function in Minority Youth with Asthma in the GALA II \(Genes-Environments and Admixture in Latino Americans\) and SAGE II \(Study of African Americans, Asthma, Genes, and Environments\) Studies. \*Am J Respir Crit Care Med.\* 2016;193\(11\):1271-1280. doi:10.1164/rccm.201508-1706O](#)