



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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## **HB 1052 - Transportation – Consolidated Transportation Program – Scoring House Appropriations Committee March 9, 2023**

### **SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1052. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

By changing the scoring criteria for the state transportation program, we can incentivize transportation projects that will bring the maximum benefit to our residents, the environment, and our economy. Our transportation affiliates, including SMART-Transportation Division and ATU Local 1300, support this measure because it will accurately calculate the benefits that public transit provides to our state by taking into consideration the social costs of private car trips. Unfortunately, past approaches to the state's transportation program largely focused on congestion relief by expanding highways, without considering other social costs.

This bill requires a comprehensive analysis on how transportation projects can improve the lives of state residents, including how the project impacts climate change mitigation, air quality improvements, greenhouse gas reductions, and economic development. Any transportation program that doesn't include these details would be incomplete. This bill also promotes transparency so that the public can see and understand the scores that projects received.

Importantly, HB 1052 also considers the impact that transportation projects will have on smart growth principles. We support this bill, provided that by smart growth design principles, the state means transit-oriented development that will help get people out of their cars and onto public transit. For public transit to be truly successful, we need to build and design our neighborhoods to make public transit accessible for all. We also believe the bill should add "*Transportation labor organizations*" to the list of organizations that the Workgroup should solicit input from on Page 8.

We urge a favorable report for HB 1052.