



Chair Ben Barnes
and Members, Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

March 6, 2024

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dan Reed and I serve as the Regional Policy Director for [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance racial, economic, and environmental justice in land use, transportation, and housing throughout Greater Washington. **GGWash supports House Bill 836, the Transportation Climate Alignment Act**, which would hold the state accountable for the negative impacts of large highway projects.

Maryland is facing a budget crisis, a housing crisis, and a climate crisis. Land use—where things are, and how we get between them—is key to addressing all three. This bill would require that transportation officials measure the pollution and traffic effects of large highway projects, and to mitigate any impacts that don't comply with the state's climate or traffic goals. Those mitigation strategies include investing in other transportation options like public transit or bike lanes, and encouraging the development of jobs and housing closer to each other so people don't have to drive as much. Giving people more choices in where to live and how to get around can make better use of our limited transportation funds, provide much-needed housing supply, and reduce our state's carbon emissions.

Research shows that more highways can in fact make traffic worse¹, and we need to give people more options. This bill, modeled on legislation in states such as Colorado and Minnesota, will help by holding the state accountable for the transportation investments we make. We urge the Appropriations Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Reed'.

Dan Reed
Regional Policy Director

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/06/us/widen-highways-traffic.html>

The Washington, DC region is great and it can be greater.