



Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

March 6, 2024

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
121 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

Re: *Letter of Information – House Bill 836 – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects - Impact Assessments and Mitigation Plans (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024)*

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information on House Bill 836 for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 836 requires MDOT to conduct an impact assessment to determine if a major highway capacity expansion project will result in a net increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and then if the project is to move forward, there shall be a mitigation plan developed and implemented to eliminate the net increases in greenhouse gas emissions or vehicle miles traveled.

The MDOT recognizes the need to consider GHG emissions and VMT in our transportation program, and we are advancing a variety of programmatic initiatives to address the environmental impacts of transportation, alongside efforts to manage congestion challenges that communities face. We look forward to our meeting with the bill sponsor to discuss a potential path forward that addresses MDOT’s concerns regarding implementation, feasibility, and Maryland-specific considerations.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 836.

Respectfully submitted,

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