



RMI
1850 M St NW, Suite 280
Washington, DC 20036

Committee: Appropriations Committee
Testimony on: HB0836, "Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects - Impact Assessments and Mitigation Plans (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024)"
Position: Informational
Hearing Date: March 6, 2024

Members of the Committee,

RMI is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to transform global energy systems and secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all. RMI is providing INFORMATIONAL testimony on HB0836.

The Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) 2023 Carbon Pollution Reduction Plan identifies that the state is not on track to meet transportation sector climate pollution targets. MDOT identifies that a 20% per capita Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction will be necessary to achieve the state's climate targets. However, MDOT also identifies that state VMT will increase under its current "strategies in progress."

The enclosed results show our analysis of the benefits to Marylanders if MDOT were to achieve its 20% per capita VMT goal using new strategies between 2024 and 2050. These potential benefits include:

- 55 million metric tons of cumulative CO₂e savings
- \$3,081 of average household savings per year from reduced vehicle operating costs
- 171 fewer crash fatalities on average per year
- 1,420 fewer deaths on average per year from cleaner air & increased physical activity
- 97.7 terawatt hours of cumulative energy savings from avoided vehicle charging

Our methodology is available online at the RMI 'Smarter MODES Calculator' webpage for the committee's review.

Signed,

Miguel Moravec
Senior Associate
RMI