



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

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

**Re: *Letter of Information – Senate Bill 681 – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects - Impact Assessments and Mitigation Plans (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024)***

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following information on Senate Bill 681 for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 681 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 Senate Bill 681.

Respectfully submitted,

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