



SB 681: Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Terps For Bike Lanes – FAVORABLE

February 6, 2024

Chair Smith and Committee Members,

I am writing this testimony on behalf of Terps For Bike Lanes to express our support for the proposed legislation that requires the Department of Transportation to establish a process for performing major highway capacity expansion project impact assessments. Terps for Bike Lanes believes that such assessments are essential for responsible and sustainable infrastructure development, and this legislation represents a significant step towards achieving that goal.

The legislation mandates the Department of Transportation to establish a systematic process for conducting impact assessments for major highway capacity expansion projects. This process will provide valuable insights into the potential effects of such projects on the environment, communities, and transportation systems. The Department is mandated to use the findings of the impact assessment to determine whether a project meets certain requirements. This ensures that decisions regarding highway capacity expansion are informed by a comprehensive understanding of the potential impacts, fostering responsible and well-informed decision-making.

Research has shown that conducting impact assessments for major infrastructure projects leads to more efficient resource allocation. Understanding potential challenges in advance allows for proactive planning and the allocation of resources to address specific issues, contributing to project success. Impact assessments are vital for considering the community and environmental aspects of major projects. They provide a platform for evaluating the potential social, economic, and environmental consequences, ensuring a more holistic and sustainable approach to infrastructure development. The legislation promotes transparent decision-making by requiring the Department to use the impact assessment as a basis for determining project eligibility. This transparency fosters public trust and ensures that decisions align with the best interests of the community. Terps for Bike Lanes firmly believes that this legislation is a positive step towards responsible infrastructure development. By mandating impact assessments and requiring the development of mitigation plans, the proposed legislation demonstrates a commitment to holistic planning, environmental stewardship, and

community well-being. We urge a Favorable committee report on this legislation and encourage the Senate to pass it on the floor. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Marks

President, Terps For Bike Lanes

[terps4bikelanes@gmail.com](mailto:terps4bikelanes@gmail.com)