



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of HB 84 Climate and Transportation Alignment Act of 2025

TO: Chair Barnes and members of the Appropriations Committee and Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation
FROM: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate, Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
DATE: February 4, 2025

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland strongly supports **HB 84 - Climate and Transportation Alignment Act of 2025** which would ensure that Maryland's transportation planning aligns with the state's climate, social, and economic goals.

Transportation is Maryland's #1 source of climate pollution and the second largest expense behind housing. Maryland families deserve more affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation choices. By prioritizing projects that expand public transit and active transportation infrastructure, the **Climate and Transportation Alignment Act** will ensure that every Marylander has equitable access to opportunities like jobs, education, and healthcare.

HB 84 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of all major transportation projects **AND** align the state's capital transportation budget with Maryland's climate goals, as required by the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. For major highway expansion projects over \$100 million, MDOT must offset pollution with cleaner transportation options—like public transit, bike paths, and pedestrian infrastructure—and prioritize investments in overburdened and underserved communities.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on Unitarian Universalist Values, including justice, equity, and interdependence. Working to mitigate, adapt to, and build resilience for climate change is central to our beliefs. The **Climate and Transportation Alignment Act** corresponds to both values. Expanding public transportation will benefit underserved communities with quicker and reliable access to employment, education, health care services and shopping. Reducing vehicle miles driven will contribute to meeting the greenhouse gases mandate in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

The **Climate and Transportation Act** would protect our health, reduce traffic congestion, and save consumers money—an average of more than \$3,000 per household each year on vehicle costs. With Maryland facing a transportation budget crisis, it's critical to prioritize spending the state's scarce dollars on projects that align with its goals to reduce climate pollution, advance equity, and expand transportation choices.

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We strongly urge a favorable report on **HB 084**.

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