



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB84
Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments
(Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)
House - Appropriations Committee
Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

February 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of HB42**, because it is important legislation that will address transportation spending that is incongruent with state climate goals. CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 60,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families in Maryland. We would like to thank Del. Edelson for his leadership on this bill.

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 Transportation and Climate Alignment Act will ensure that every Marylander has equitable access to opportunities like jobs, education, and healthcare.

HB84 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. 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.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, HB84 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 air and climate pollution, advance equity, reduce traffic injuries and fatalities, and expand transportation choices. For these reasons, CASA urges a favorable report.

Jose Coronado-Flores
Research and Policy Analyst
jcoronado@wearecasa.org, 240-393-7840