

**Testimony on HB 0084 by Dr. William Reid (Frederick County, Maryland)
Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025**

Appropriations

Date: February 11, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and Appropriations Committee members; my name is William Reid. I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland, an Executive Board Member of the Rural Maryland Council, a leader and board member of Progressive Maryland (PM), and the Chair of Frederick Progressives (FCP). **I strongly support HB0084 (The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)**, which would cut pollution from Maryland’s highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking.

Transportation is Maryland’s number one source of climate pollution and the second-largest expense for families after housing. Marylanders deserve more affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation options. The **Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025 (HB0084)** will help ensure every resident has equitable access to jobs, education, and healthcare by prioritizing investments in public transit and active transportation infrastructure. **HB0084** requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure greenhouse gas emissions from significant transportation projects and align its budget with the state’s climate goals. For over \$100 million highway expansion projects, MDOT must offset pollution by funding cleaner options like public transit, bike paths, and pedestrian infrastructure—especially in underserved communities.

Highway expansion has harmed rural areas by diverting traffic from local businesses, contributing to farmland loss, and increasing roadway fatalities. Converting vehicle lanes to bike or transit lanes is a proven safety measure. Rural residents are more likely than their urban counterparts to have a disability, making paratransit and accessible infrastructure critical. A recent poll shows that 83% of rural Maryland voters support investing in transportation alternatives like public transit, walking, and biking.

HB 0084 is an innovative, forward-thinking policy that benefits our climate, economy, and communities. Let’s invest in a transportation system that works for everyone.

I strongly urge a favorable report on **HB 0084**.