



HEARING DATE: February 11, 2025

BILL NO/TITLE: House Bill 84: Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **Oppose**

As the trade association representing trucking companies that regularly travel throughout the state and deliver products to citizens in every jurisdiction in Maryland, the Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA) urges the Committee to consider the negative impacts House Bill 84 will have on our region's congestion mitigation efforts.

Safe and reliable truck movements form the backbone of economic growth in the United States. Trucks are the hub of the state's distribution wheel as they support the manufacturing, agricultural, and retail industries. Motor carriers are directly affected by congestion through increased operating costs. Traffic congestion results in wasted fuel (6.4 billion gallons in 2022), higher labor costs, less safety, greater vehicle wear and tear, and delayed delivery times. According to the American Transportation Research Institute, the cost of congestion to the trucking industry is at its highest level to date. In 2022, the annual cost of congestion to the industry reached an all-time high of \$108.8 billion. **This lost productivity is the equivalent of 430,000 commercial truck drivers sitting idle in traffic without moving for an entire working year.**

The passage of this legislation will only serve to limit the state's ability to meaningfully address our congestion challenges by effectively eliminating large highway capacity expansion projects. For those reasons MMTA asks for an unfavorable report.

About Maryland Motor Truck Association: Maryland Motor Truck Association is a non-profit trade association that has represented the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 900+ members, MMTA is committed to support, advocate and educate for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry in Maryland.

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