



516 N. Charles Street, Suite 312 - Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Testimony on HB 84

Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025

Appropriations and Environment and Transportation

Date: February 7, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Transit Choices strongly supports **HB 84**, which would cut pollution from Maryland's highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking.

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.

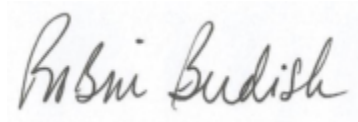
HB 84 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of all major transportation projects, and align the state's capital transportation budget with Maryland's climate goals, as required by the Climate Solutions Now Act. For major highway expansion 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.

We believe that Transportation is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, which are harmful to the environment and human health. Our goal for every Marylander is to protect human health, preserve the environment for present and future generations, and ensure sustainable development.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, **HB 84** 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.

We strongly urge a **favorable report on HB 84**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Budish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and 'B'.

Robin Budish
Director

410.528.8696