



Chair Ben Barnes  
and Members, Appropriations Committee  
120 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 4, 2025

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Dean Howell and I am a Policy Fellow at [Greater Greater Washington](#), a nonprofit that works to advance sustainability and equity in housing, land use, and transportation throughout Greater Washington and beyond. **GGWash strongly supports House Bill 84, the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act**, which would allow the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to offset pollution from major highway expansion projects with investments in infrastructure for public transit, walking, and biking.

HB 84 would require MDOT to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of major transportation projects, and align the state's capital transportation budget with Maryland's climate goals. For 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. **These provisions will internalize the costs of the transportation sector that are not currently being accounted for.**

Maryland residents are currently bearing the costs of car-centric transportation infrastructure through increased transportation costs, air pollution, and reduced choice. Those who cannot or do not drive also pay in lost opportunities, reduced healthcare access, and in significantly increased transit time when public transit options are limited or unreliable.

By prioritizing projects that expand public transit and active transportation infrastructure, we can ensure that Marylanders have the ability to choose what mode of transportation suits their needs. The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act will support equitable access for every Marylander to job opportunities, education, and healthcare. **We ask that the Appropriations Committee give this bill a favorable report.**



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dean Howell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Dean' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Howell'.

Dean Howell  
Policy Fellow