



**Testimony on HB 84
Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025
Appropriations Committee and Environment and Transportation Committee**

Date: January 29, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Elders Climate Action Maryland 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.

As elders, we are concerned about current and future generations, but we are especially aware of issues that affect our generation and our grandchildren. We see important benefits from this bill in four areas beyond the vital goal of reducing greenhouse gases.

1. Both children and elders are particularly sensitive to the health effects of air pollution from diesel trucks and other internal combustion vehicles. This bill would decrease exposure to these dangerous pollutants.
2. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, [motor vehicle fatality rates](#) are highest for persons age 65 and over. This bill would reduce motor vehicle deaths and injuries by reducing vehicle miles traveled.
3. Physical activities like walking and biking are vital for the health and wellbeing of children and elders. Proper pedestrian and biking infrastructure is essential for those activities to be done safely.
4. Many elders do not drive. Many of our grandchildren are too young to drive or do not have consistent access to a car. Public transit and good biking and pedestrian infrastructure are important for our mobility. This provides better access to healthcare, education, jobs, and other vital opportunities and services.

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**.

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