



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 84 – Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact
Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)
SUPPORT

Thank you to Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee for the opportunity for the Rockville Mayor and Council to provide written comments in support of HB 84. We thank Delegate Edelson for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council and the City's Environment Commission unanimously support this legislation, which seeks to align Maryland's transportation investments with its climate goals by requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure and offset greenhouse gas emissions from major highway projects while prioritizing investment in clean transportation alternatives, especially for underserved communities. The City endorses the provisions which require a greenhouse gas assessment for major transportation projects and investment to offset any highway expansions to bring transportation plans in alignment with State climate goals.

HB 84 furthers the Mayor and Council's Comprehensive Plan, Climate Action Plan, Vision Zero program, and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion priorities by:

- Helping Rockville to reduce transportation emissions, which are more than 1/3 of the City's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Requiring that MDOT identify for all major highway expansion projects investments in transit, transit-oriented development, transportation management pedestrian and bicycle facilities, land use changes, and other measures to offset the increase in vehicle miles traveled associated with the project.
- Requiring the prioritization of overburdened and underserved communities when MDOT plans major highway expansion projects.

HB 84 is an innovative and improved approach to the implementation of MDOT major highway expansion projects that supports vision zero and multi-modal options, environmental sustainability, and equity and inclusion. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 84 with a favorable report.