



## **SB0395 - SUPPORT**

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### **Testimony on SB 395 Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025 Senate Budget & Taxation Committee January 29, 2025**

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am the Executive Director of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, and enrolled in a graduate degree on Forests and Climate Change at Oregon State University. The Climate Communications Coalition strongly supports SB0395.

It is absolutely imperative that we align the biggest source of pollution in Maryland – transportation - with our climate goals. As of January 25, 2025, the average level of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere was [423.3 parts per million \(ppm\)](#), up from 280 ppm from pre-industrial revolution and comparable only to the Pliocene Climatic Optimum, which occurred over 4 million years ago. Continuing business as usual, and accumulating additional greenhouse gases through transportation will only exacerbate dangerous, expensive, and unpredictable weather events. CO<sub>2</sub> can stay in the atmosphere for [hundreds of thousands](#) of years and we are simply adding to the crisis if we don't reduce emissions.

In addition to reducing pollution, SB0395 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](#). It will improve and expand public transit, create a protected bike infrastructure, expand broadband access, and locate jobs and amenities near where people live and near transit to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by Marylanders. Currently many Marylanders are stuck in traffic for hours each week. This bill would start mitigating this polluting waste of time and modernize our infrastructure.

Moreover, 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 climate pollution, advance equity, and expand transportation choices. The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025 will ensure that future transportation projects align with the stated goals of reducing emissions by expanding clean transportation. All in all, this bill is key to bringing down our emissions and to accelerate a much needed start multi-modal, modern transit system in Maryland. It will save Marylanders money and time in addition to improving our environment and public health. We urge a favorable report on SB0395.

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