



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**SB 395**

**DATE: January 29, 2025**

**SPONSOR: Senator Hettleman**

**ASSIGNED TO: Budget and Taxation Committee**

**CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support (Department of Transportation)**

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### **Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)**

Senate Bill 395 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to include multimodal investments to reduce and offset other increases in vehicle miles traveled and climate pollution when planning and implementing future highway expansion projects. These potential offsetting investments may include transit, transit-oriented development, transportation demand management programs, and other related measures. The State's Consolidated Transportation Program must be developed to reflect these policies.

Patterned after existing legislation in Colorado and Minnesota, this bill takes an innovative and transformational approach to ensure that future transportation investments are made in alignment with the State's climate goals, and in so doing, with local climate goals. Transportation is the largest contributor to climate change in Montgomery County, with State highways carrying the County's highest average daily traffic. Senate Bill 395 would discourage increases in highway capacity which typically increase vehicle miles traveled and carbon emissions and ensure that any such projects are offset by other investments.

This legislation also supports the types of transportation investments the County generally prioritizes along State highways, such as its bus rapid transit program, active transportation network, and investment in non-highway-capacity projects. These are projects that the County plans to continue advancing and funding into the next decade, to further the goal of improving mobility within and outside of Montgomery County.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Budget and Taxation Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 395.