



Transportation Alliance

January 29, 2025

Testimony on SB 395 – *Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025* – Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance supports SB 395, which will help to ensure that the state's transportation investments align with its climate and transportation goals.

SB 395 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure and mitigate any increases in climate pollution and traffic caused by highway expansion projects over \$5 million. Mitigation options may include improving and expanding public transportation, creating bike and pedestrian infrastructure, expanding broadband access, or other smart growth strategies. This legislation supports Governor Moore's Executive Order directing a whole of government approach to addressing the climate crisis and the Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan's finding that a 20% per-capita reduction in VMT by 2050 is necessary for meeting the state's climate goals.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, SB 395 would save consumers money - an average of \$3,271 per household each year on vehicle costs - and make strategic use of limited infrastructure dollars. With Maryland facing a transportation budget crisis, it's critical to prioritize spending the state's scarce dollars on projects that will actually, measurably achieve its goals.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for Senate Bill 395.