



**SB0395**

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

**Testimony before Budget and Taxation**

**Hearing January 29, 2025**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Co-Chair Rosapepe, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 800+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is also an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of SB0395**, which would cut pollution from Maryland's highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking. We thank Senators Hettleman and Gile for sponsoring this important legislation.

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.

**SB 395** 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.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, **SB 395** 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 respectfully urge a favorable report.**

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