

Testimony on SB 395 by Dr. William Reid (Frederick County, Maryland)
Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Date: January 29, 2025
Position: SUPPORT

Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair, and Senate **Budget & Taxation Committee** members; my name is William Reid. I am a resident of Frederick, Maryland, a leader and board member of Progressive Maryland (PM), the Chair of Frederick Progressives (FCP), and a representative of the Sierra Club (Catocin Group), Mobilize Frederick, and their partners. We strongly support **SB 395**, which would cut pollution from Maryland's highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking.

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. The **Transportation and Climate Alignment Act** will ensure that every Marylander has equitable access to opportunities like jobs, education, and healthcare by prioritizing projects that expand public transit and active transportation infrastructure.

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 significant 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.

Specifically, a PM and FCP priority is the western expansion of the MARC commuter train service into Frederick, Maryland. We envision that this western expansion will offer mid-day and weekend service to ensure that every Marylander has equitable access to jobs, education, and healthcare and to stimulate economic opportunities in Frederick County and our state.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, **SB 395** would protect our health, reduce traffic congestion, and save consumers money. 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 stimulate economic opportunities, reduce air and climate pollution, advance equity, reduce traffic injuries and fatalities, and expand transportation choices.

We strongly urge a **favorable report on SB 395**.