



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 198

DATE: January 29, 2025

SPONSOR: Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee (By Request – Departmental – Transportation)

ASSIGNED TO: Budget and Taxation Committee

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

POSITION: Support (Department of Transportation)

Transportation – Consolidated Transportation Program – Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2025)

Senate Bill 198 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to revise the system for evaluating, scoring, and prioritizing capital transportation projects to be considered for funding and inclusion in the Consolidated Transportation Program.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation supports this bill which better aligns the evaluation and scoring metrics for transportation projects with the State's goals as articulated in the *2050 Maryland Transportation Plan*. The bill proposes to evaluate projects based on how they address the following: safety, accessibility and mobility, climate change and the environment, social equity, economic development, and land use and transportation demand management.

Consistent with the legislation, the County is focused on delivering projects that improve safety; expand transportation options for County residents, businesses, and visitors; improve the efficiency of the existing system with limited roadway expansion; mitigate the climate impacts of the transportation sector; address past inequities; and support more compact and walkable land use patterns. In this past, the County's projects have not scored favorably.

The new metrics proposed in the bill will improve the ability for the County's transportation projects to compete favorably for funding. The County is focused on advancing projects such as bus rapid transit, growing our active transportation network, and other investments that address capacity without widening County and State roadways. Having the State prioritize projects such as these through funding commitments would benefit County residents and businesses, through the expansion of transportation choices, improving travel and supporting future growth.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Budget and Taxation Committee advance this legislation.