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**Written Testimony**

**Senate Bill 198 - Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2025  
Budget and Taxation Committee – January 29, 2025  
Support**

**Background: Senate Bill 198** would alter the required elements of the Consolidated Transportation Program and Maryland Transportation Plan; require a certain advisory committee to advise the Department of Transportation on the Maryland Transportation Plan; require the Department to develop a certain project-based scoring system and solicit requests from certain entities for major surface transportation projects; and require the Department to evaluate and score certain major surface transportation projects.

**Written Comments:** It is no secret that there are problems in our current structure under the Department of Transportation. There needs to be changes in the evaluation process for planning and funding projects across the State. Baltimore is a prime example of an area where the current state of MDOT has taken its toll. From abandoned projects to neglected roadways, it is an epicenter for needed upgrades.

By implementing the Transportation Investment Priorities Act and updating Chapter 30, the Maryland Transit Administration can properly develop asset management practices to ensure there is a focus on safety, accessibility, social equity, and sustainability, and the State Highway Administration can establish performance targets for pavements and bridges that can be sustained over a 20-year period and conduct a comprehensive review of such targets every four years. Both of these are key for the longevity of our infrastructure in our State.

**For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on SB198.**

*The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.*