



Baltimore Field Office
10 E. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

March 25, 2025

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

*RE: House Bill 84 - Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments
(Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2025)*

Hearing date: March 27, 2025

Dear Chair Guzzone:

Rails to Trails Conservancy is the nation's leading trails organization, building a nation connected by trails. RTC reimagines public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike and be active outdoors. RTC has a strong presence in Maryland. In addition to its Baltimore Field Office and many Maryland residents working out of its Washington, DC National Headquarters, RTC has two of its TrailNation™ projects – the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network and the Capital Trails Network – in Maryland, and the cross-country Great American Rail-Trail® passes through Maryland, as well.

As a national organization, RTC has followed and supported other states – Colorado and Minnesota – that have already passed laws similar to the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act, and it would be thrilled to see Maryland join their ranks as a national leader in this kind of innovative policymaking. Additional investments in active transportation (trails, biking and walking infrastructure) and public transit would have significant economic, environmental, safety, and health benefits for Marylanders.

In October 2019, Rails to Trails Conservancy released a report, *Active Transportation Transforms America: The Case for Increased Public Investment in Walking and Biking Connectivity*. The report noted (p. 44) that the \$20 billion in health savings generated nationally from physical activity due to existing active transportation infrastructure could increase to \$48 billion to \$92 billion depending on the level of elevated investment. Maryland could see proportional health savings impacts due to increased active transportation infrastructure induced by this legislation.

Sincerely,

Andrew N. Dupuy
Director of State-level Policy