

February 27, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – HB 1176 – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles in HOV Lane – Termination Date***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 1176 and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

HB 1176 extends the termination date of a provision of law that authorizes plug-in electric drive vehicles, including plug-in hybrid electric, battery-electric, and fuel-cell electric vehicles, to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes regardless of the number of passengers. The bill extends the deadline from September 30, 2025, to September 30, 2030.

MDOT would like to advise the Committee that any extension beyond September 25, 2025, should be contingent on a corresponding federal extension in 23 USC 166(b)(5) or include other appropriate qualifications to protect federal funds. Allowing plug-in electric vehicles with one occupant to use HOV lanes without a corresponding federal extension subjects the State Highway Administration to Federal Highway Administration sanctions for non-compliance. A loss of federal funding could result in additional use of State funds to complete projects or the cancellation of projects. MDOT is working with the bill sponsor on amendment language to address this issue.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberation of House Bill 1176.

Respectfully submitted,

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