

**Testimony on HB 230  
Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026  
House Appropriations Committee**

**Date: February 13, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Coalition for Smarter Growth supports the **Transportation Investment Priorities Act**. Our organization advocates for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all. We have worked extensively in the Maryland suburbs of DC, in particular in Prince George's and Montgomery counties, and have supported numerous transit, safe streets, and arterial road investments.

**HB230 will ensure Maryland's transportation investments are aligned with state policy goals and that funding decisions are transparent and data driven.** We applaud MDOT's effort to modernize the Chapter 30 project scoring program. Adopting HB 230 would ensure that these efforts guide future administrations in spending Maryland's transportation dollars wisely and with accountability.

**In neighboring Virginia, the Smart Scale project funding and prioritization program is regarded as a national success story,** because it has resulted in more cost-effective projects and solutions. Equally important, because Smart Scale doesn't spread funds thinly across too many projects with the result that many never get built, the Virginia program has ensured that the selected projects are fully funded and are built more expeditiously. These key components of Smart Scale are likewise contained in MDOT's proposed administrative measures and HB 230 legislation to improve the Chapter 30 process.

**HB 230 ensures consideration of land use, environmental impacts, and demand management solutions.** It improves the connection between the state and localities to jointly ensure that local land use decisions are linked to transportation projects that the taxpayers can afford and make sense.

At a time when tax resources are scarce, HB 230 will ensure that Maryland's state transportation dollars are spent wisely.

We ask for a **favorable report for HB 230** by the committee. Thank you.