

HEARING DATE: February 17th, 2026

BILL NO: HB 230

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: Support

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 721-6789

TITLE: Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program - Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026)

BILL ANALYSIS:

HB 230 alters the project prioritization framework and process for major surface transportation projects to be considered for inclusion in the Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The bill requires the development of a project-based scoring system and establishes a two-year project review cycle to systematically evaluate candidate projects for inclusion in the CTP.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) supports HB 230. Maryland's Sustainable Growth Planning Principles, passed by the Maryland General Assembly through [HB 286/SB 266 of 2025](#) and signed into law by Governor Moore, guide Maryland's growth in a sustainable and more balanced way of managing land use and development. The eight Sustainable Growth Planning Principles on [Land, Transportation, Housing, Economy, Equity, Resilience, Place, and Ecology](#) aim to fairly address economic, social, and environmental factors for both current and future generations.

The Transportation Principle stipulates that the State should "prioritize transportation networks that create **energy efficient, affordable, and reliable access** to jobs, housing, and services." Transportation affects every other Principle, and vice versa; it is especially important for the Land, Economy, Equity, Ecology, and Resilience Principles. HB 230 would mandate a project prioritization framework that operationalizes the Transportation and other Planning Principles. The bill's proposed project prioritization scoring system not only updates the state

transportation goals to align with the Planning Principles, but the revised goals of Safety, Accessibility and Mobility, Climate Change and the Environment, Social Equity, Economic Development, and Sustainable Land Use and Transportation Demand Management establish an objective, quantifiable and transparent evaluation process to weigh the benefits of a project against its cost to the state.

In addition, the project prioritization framework defined in the bill would complement MDP's efforts to work with the Maryland Department of Transportation to ensure that major transportation projects are consistent with the Sustainable Growth Principles, as mandated by §5-7A-02 of the State Finance & Procurement Article.

MDP Position

The Maryland Department of Planning respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 230.