

Testimony on Senate Bill 59
Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
February 25, 2026

Position: Support

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of almost 2000 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We strongly support Senate Bill 59 that would cut pollution from Maryland's highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking, and assist efforts to meet Maryland's goals of reducing vehicular emissions.

Transportation is Maryland's #1 source of climate pollution and the second largest expense behind housing. Maryland families deserve more affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation choices. By prioritizing projects that expand public transit and active transportation infrastructure, the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act will ensure that every Marylander has equitable access to opportunities like jobs, education, and healthcare.

Senate Bill 59 would require the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of all major transportation projects and align the state's capital transportation budget with Maryland's climate goals, as required by the Climate Solutions Now Act. For major highway expansion projects over \$100 million, MDOT must offset pollution with cleaner transportation options - like public transit, bike paths, and pedestrian infrastructure - and prioritize investments in overburdened and underserved communities.

While the crisis of global warming affects everyone, the health impacts of pollution tend to fall more heavily on people living in lower income communities, and particularly on people of color. In addition, transportation policy and choices seldom take account of their impact on the lives of persons with disabilities and those without easy access to personal vehicles to reach health care, education, jobs, or more.

We strongly urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 59