



HB0437

Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)

Testimony before Appropriations Committee

Hearing February, 10 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Barnes and Vice-Chair Kaiser, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in support of HB0437, which would require the MDOT to perform an impact assessment for certain major highway expansion projects, to consider implementing a corresponding multimodal transportation program, and evaluate certain major projects for their impact on greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. We thank Delegate Edelson, Solomon, and Watson for their co-sponsorship of this important legislation.

Climate Impacts: Transportation is Maryland's #1 source of climate pollution. TCA aligns transportation planning with Climate Solutions Now Act targets and Governor Moore's Executive Order on Climate Change.

Affordability: Transportation is the **second largest household expense** for most Marylanders and in some rural areas, transportation is the largest household expense. Car ownership costs over \$12,000 per year, per car, pricing many families out of basic mobility. **Maryland households could save \$3,000+ annually** with expanded transit, walking, and biking options. (Source: Smarter MODES Calculator, RMI); <https://rmi.org/insight/smarter-modes-calculator-smarter-mobility-options-for-decarbonization-equity-and-safety/>

Access to Opportunity: Every Marylander should have affordable and reliable access to jobs, housing, education, food, healthcare, and recreation, no matter where they live, and overburdened, underserved communities are being left behind. In the Baltimore region, only 7.5% of jobs are reachable within one hour by public transit (Source: CMTA Transportation Report Card); <https://cmtalliance.org/report-card/>

Public Health & Safety: Transportation decisions directly affect public health and safety. Highway expansion increases vehicle pollution, which contributes to asthma, heart disease, cancer, and other chronic illnesses. Fossil fuel pollution remains a major health risk in the U.S., contributing to hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each year, while public transportation is 10-times safer per mile than driving.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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