



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 437 – Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and
Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)
SUPPORT

Thank you to Chair Guzzone and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee for the opportunity for the Rockville Mayor and Council to provide written comments in support of HB 437. We thank Delegate Edelson for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Rockville Mayor and Council and the City’s Environment Commission support this legislation, which seeks to align Maryland’s transportation investments with its climate goals by requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure and offset greenhouse gas emissions from major highways with investment in clean transportation alternatives, especially for underserved communities.

HB 437 furthers the Mayor and Council’s Comprehensive Plan, Climate Action Plan, Vision Zero program, and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion priorities by:

- Helping Rockville and Maryland reduce transportation emissions, which accounts for more than a third of the greenhouse gas emissions.
- Requiring that MDOT identify for all major highway expansion projects corresponding investments in transit, transit-oriented development, transportation management pedestrian and bicycle facilities, land use changes, and other measures to offset the increase in vehicle miles traveled associated with the project.
- Requiring the prioritization of overburdened and underserved communities when MDOT plans major highway expansion projects.

HB 437 is an innovative and improved approach to the implementation of MDOT major highway expansion projects that support vision zero and multi-modal options, environmental sustainability, and equity and inclusion. For these reasons we urge the Committee to provide HB 437 with a favorable report.