



**Transportation
Alliance**



Bikemore

February 25, 2026

**Testimony on SB 59 –
Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026 –
Budget & Taxation Committee**

Position: Favorable

The Central Maryland Transportation Alliance and Bikemore support SB 59, which will help to ensure that the state's transportation investments align with its climate and transportation goals.

SB 59 requires 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 its 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.

This legislation supports Governor Moore's Executive Order directing a whole of government approach to addressing the climate crisis and the Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan's finding that a 20% per-capita reduction in VMT by 2050 is necessary for meeting the state's climate goals. A recent analysis from the University of Maryland's Center for Global Sustainability has found that the state is falling behind on reaching its emissions reduction targets and the transportation sector is lagging the most. Maryland must act immediately if it wants to meet its goals.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, SB 59 would save Marylanders money both personally and as taxpayers. For most households transportation is the second largest expense with car ownership costing over \$12,000 a year. Passing SB 59 could help save households over \$3,000 a year by giving them more affordable transportation options like transit, biking and walking. And the state would save money by making strategic investments with its transportation dollars that reduce long-term costs and deliver the outcomes Marylanders desire.

We strongly encourage a FAVORABLE report for Senate Bill 59.