



Testimony on: SB0062 – Transportation - Consolidated Transportation Program - Prioritization (Transportation Investment Priorities Act of 2026)
Committee: Budget and Taxation
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 25, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

We are providing our testimony today in support of SB0062. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on SB0062.

SB0062 updates and clarifies the transportation project prioritization program codified in Chapter 30. The goal is to ensure that public funds are spent efficiently and effectively on transportation projects that deliver the greatest benefits to the community. The bill makes it easier for local partners to request projects, understand how projects are evaluated, and work with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to implement shared priorities.

The Chapter 30 project prioritization program has been in place since 2017. Local partners have raised issues with the existing project prioritization process and expressed interest in a process that is more fair (geographically and modally), transparent, predictable, transportation mode neutral, and maximizes the benefit per dollar.

SB0062 requires the MDOT to make reforms so that it is clearer and more predictable for stakeholders including counties, municipalities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and other entities that propose transportation projects for inclusion in the MDOT capital program. The bill would update the current Chapter 30 prioritization process by revising the criteria and measures by which projects are scored to include the following:

1. safety,
2. accessibility and mobility,
3. climate change and the environment,
4. social equity, economic development, and
5. sustainable land use and transportation demand management.

We are supportive of these changes, particularly the criteria on climate change and the environment, social equity, and sustainable land use and transportation demand management.

MDOT must be a steward of public dollars but also the environment and the state's climate goals. This is particularly true since the legislature recently increased revenues to the

Transportation Trust Fund. This bill will improve the transparency and accountability of use of these increased funds. We encourage a FAVORABLE report for SB0062.

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Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Law and Policy Project

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland