

**Testimony on HB 437
Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

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Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Budget and Taxation Committee:

I strongly support **HB 437** which would cut pollution from Maryland's highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking.

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.

HB 437 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.

Maryland needs to implement solutions to combat traffic congestion and provide alternate ways of getting from point a to point b without a car. This past fall my car was in the shop for a few weeks. I decided not to rent a car and to get around with borrowing my husband's car as needed, public transportation and Lyft. I am retired and have limited needs for a car so thought it would not be much of an issue. There were several appointments that would have been within walking distance but for the lack of sidewalks and ways to safely navigate across highways I did not try. I never realized public transportation was so limiting and consumed so much time so I ended up using the Lyft service a few times for my convenience when not using my husband's car. I am glad I tried going without a rented car for that limited amount of time as it helped me to better understand how our transportation system makes travel without a car difficult at best. Improving options for travel without a car would be a benefit for all.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, **HB 437** would protect our health, reduce traffic congestion, and save consumers money - [an average of more than \\$3,000 per household each](#)

[year on vehicle costs](#). Investing in more efficient, lower-maintenance infrastructure can also reduce the state's long-term costs. New analysis shows Maryland could achieve approximately **\$550 million per year in net savings by 2050** by building out bus rapid transit, protected bike lanes, and passenger rail.

We strongly urge a **favorable report on HB 437**.

Marlene Durholz
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