



TESTIMONY FOR SB0059
Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and
Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of
2026)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0059 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

In order to meet the state's climate goals, we need to stop thinking about highways and roads as our major infrastructure. Transit-oriented development and other alternatives need to become our major focus. Additionally, we need to start thinking more about low-income residents who can't afford cars and/or gas to travel, as well as focusing on the needs of underserved/overburdened communities, which we have ignored in the past.

This bill would require the Maryland Department of Transportation to invest in public transit, walking and biking infrastructure, solar, and transit-oriented development to offset the pollution caused by any major highway expansion projects. It will also require the Department to measure and offset climate pollution from all major capital projects in the state's six-year capital transportation budget. This is a responsible way to plan for the future.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.