

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, SB59

Date: February 23, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

I, Jeanette Louise Spangle strongly supports SB59, 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.

SB59 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.

Having improved public transit is important to me as I get older. I want to have public transit options available, especially at night, instead of having only the choice to drive my car or to stay home.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, SB59 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.

I strongly urge a favorable report on SB59.