



**Testimony on SB59/HB437  
Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026  
Senate Budget and Taxation**

**Date: March 23, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT HB437/SB59**

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) strongly supports HB 437/SB 59, which would cut pollution from Maryland's highway system by investing in public transit, walking, and biking. This bill has passed the House and it being heard by your Committee.

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/SB 59 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.

We need HB 437/SB59 to ensure that planning and spending align with public well-being, rather than serving the interests of the fossil fuel industry.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, HB 437/SB 59 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. A new analysis prepared by researchers at ITDP, RMI, and the University of California Davis, 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. ITDP is a non-profit organization I founded in Maryland 41 years ago, which works globally to promote sustainable, equitable transportation and urban development. I served as Deputy Commissioner for Policy for the New York City Department of Transportation from 2015-21 and as transportation coordinator for the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission from 1983-92.

Please issue a **favorable report on HB437/SB59**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Replogle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

**Michael Replogle**

Founder and Director Emeritus, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy  
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