

SB 681: Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024 Senate Finance Committee Washington Area Bicyclist Association – FAVORABLE

February 28, 2024

Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

Transportation is Maryland's largest source of climate pollution. SB 681, the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024, would mitigate the negative climate impact of future transportation projects and increases in vehicle miles traveled due to projects, in accordance with the state's goal of reducing emissions 60% by 2031 and with Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan findings.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) is an advocacy organization with 1,200 Maryland members. We fight for a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around,

Mitigation options put forward by the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024 include improving and expanding public transportation, creating bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and other smart growth strategies. This legislation is in complete alignment with WABA's goals and approach. We wholeheartedly endorse it.

WABA urges a Favorable SB 681 committee report and Senate enactment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Seth Grimes, WABA Maryland organizer seth.grimes@waba.org