

# Transportation and Climate Initiative

Less pollution, healthier lives

photo credit: Birmingham City Council, 2018

## Reducing Pollution and Transforming Our Transportation System

***Transportation is now the largest source of climate disrupting carbon pollution in Maryland and across the country<sup>1</sup>***

The **Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)** is a collaboration between Washington D.C. and 12 Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution from transportation modes** like cars, buses, and trucks and **accelerate clean, modern and multimodal forms of transportation**. Maryland and other states are engaged in ongoing conversations and gathering of public input, with the facilitation of Georgetown Climate Center, to determine a regional policy that would reduce transportation pollution.

One policy that has been widely discussed is a cap and invest program, similar to a program that exists in the electric power sector. This policy could set a declining cap on the amount of carbon pollution released by the use of transportation fuels by requiring entities like wholesale fuel distributors that sell gasoline and other fuels to retail outlets (i.e., gas stations) to purchase emission permits available under the cap (2). The proceeds from sale by states of those permits could then be invested in clean alternatives like electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, public transportation, walking and biking projects, and other smart growth initiatives, speeding up the much needed transition to a clean, equitable, 21st century transportation system.



### Mirroring a partnership that works

This partnership could closely mirror an effort the region has taken through the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)**, which sets a declining cap on the amount of carbon dioxide power plants can emit and generates dedicated funds for clean energy programs through states' sale of emission permits under the cap to power plants. The program has helped cut regional emissions nearly in half and invested over \$616 million (3) in Maryland mostly for energy efficiency, consumer benefit, and clean energy projects.

# WHAT WOULD INVESTING IN CLEAN TRANSPORTATION GET US?

A recent analysis by the Georgetown Climate Center found that investing \$3 billion annually in the Northeast states to reduce vehicle GHG emissions would (4):

- Save thousands of lives in the region in 2030.
- Create more than 113,000 jobs in D.C. and Maryland through 2030
- Put \$11.81 billion in D.C. and Marylanders pockets through 2030

## 73% of Marylanders support a policy to limit transportation pollution (5)



There is **bipartisan support** in Maryland for a region wide approach to modernizing our transportation sector.



### Who makes the decisions?

The **Maryland Departments of Environment and Transportation** makes decisions on adopting this policy in collaboration with other agencies, states, and D.C. The Maryland General Assembly passed a law affirming the state's direction in this program in 2019.

## Recommendations for policy solutions

Maryland should make a firm commitment to adopt a regional transportation policy that achieves a minimum **40 percent reduction** in transportation sector climate pollution by 2030, to keep us on track to meet the climate goals updated by the General Assembly in 2016.

Investment and policy decisions should be made based on **pollution reduction and equity goals**, as well as robust engagement opportunities from the public—particularly those most overburdened by transportation pollution and undeserved by our current transportation system.

## How can you get involved?

How can you join us to move Maryland to adopt a clean, equitable, and 21st century transportation system? Participate in public hearings and meetings on proposed legislation and plans~Petition your decision makers~Attend rallies~join our workgroup by emailing [transportation@mdsierra.org](mailto:transportation@mdsierra.org)!

### Sources:

1. **U.S. Energy Information Administration**, [www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/analysis/pdf/table3.pdf](http://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/analysis/pdf/table3.pdf).
2. **Georgetown Climate Center**- [GCC\\_TransportationFuelSystemConsiderations\\_July2018.pdf](http://www.georgetownclimate.org/reports/reducing-transportation-emissions-in-the-northeast-and-mid-atlantic-fuel-system-considerations.html)
3. **RGGI Inc.** <https://www.rggi.org/auctions/auction-results>
4. **Georgetown Climate Center and Cambridge Systematics.** <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/reports/reducing-transportation-emissions-in-the-northeast-and-mid-atlantic-fuel-system-considerations.html>
5. **Sierra Club**, <https://content.sierraclub.org/coal/transportation-poll>.