

1000 Friends of Maryland, Coalition for Smarter Growth, Audubon Naturalist Society

Testimony

Senate Bill 204 Maryland Transit Administration – Transit Oriented Development

February 6, 2008

Senate Finance Committee

Position: Support

The above organizations strongly support this effort to improve Maryland Department of Transportation's efforts on transit oriented development. The state has an important role to ensure that our transportation needs are met through a wide variety of methods. Most critical at this point of high gas prices, global warming and debilitating congestion are policy that will make it easier for the citizens of the state to do the things they need to do with less time on the road.

Transit oriented development creates communities that are at transit stops that accomplish a number of goals:

1. Makes best use of transit investment. By locating jobs, homes and retail at transit stops more people will be encouraged to use already built public transit.
2. Create places that more daily trips can be done without driving. This saves people's time and money. Reduced driving also reduces associated pollution helping with both global warming pollution reduction goals and efforts to reduce air pollution.
3. Transit oriented development is a more efficient use of land resources. By designing communities well we can minimize number of acres that are paved over helping to reduce runoff pollution and pressure to develop other areas best saved for farming or other open spaces needs.
4. Transit oriented development is a cornerstone for Maryland's smart growth efforts.

We urge a favorable report for Senate Bill 204.