



November 1, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne M. Jones
Speaker of the House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear President Miller and Speaker Jones:

Section 2-1204.2 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, requires that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) provide to the Maryland General Assembly a status report on a regional governmental initiative, agreement, or compact that limits or reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. The following information relates to the ongoing development of a regional policy for low-carbon transportation by the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a regional collaboration between the jurisdictions of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

Maryland has been engaged in the ongoing discussions relating to TCI, including involvement in weekly technical analysis and leadership calls. There has been considerable progress made in the policy design process, including achieving the first two phases of the development process, which is shown below. Phases 5-7 will include the release of a final memorandum of understanding (MOU), and additional discussions on the potential implementation of a regional program.

Phase 1 (January-March 2019)

- Identify milestones, and finalize work plan schedule and processes

Phase 2 (April-July 2019)

- Conduct modeling and policy analysis
- Conduct further stakeholder engagement
- Coordinate activities to inform decision making

Phase 3 (August-November 2019)

- State leadership reviews input from stakeholders and expert analysis to develop specific regional policy options to share with the public
- Release framework for a draft regional policy proposal
- Gather and consider public input on framework

Phase 4 (December 2019-February 2020)

- Release of a regional policy proposal in the form of a draft MOU, accompanied by modeling results that estimate the energy and emissions implications of different cap levels and investment scenarios, as well as potential costs and benefits of different program design options
- Gather and consider public input on draft MOU

The draft regional policy proposal was released on Oct. 1, 2019, and the TCI jurisdictions, including Maryland, are focusing on gathering public feedback. Jurisdictions have been conducting public workshops and webinars since the beginning of the year, and continue to encourage the public, including experts, business representatives, and potentially affected communities and stakeholders to submit comments. More than 1,000 people have already participated in the public workshops and webinars, and more than 100 separate entries have been submitted through the online portal. These statistics include a meeting titled “Low-Carbon Transportation Investments, Strategies, and Outcomes” that was held in Baltimore City on July 30, 2019, and included more than 300 attendees.

We encourage opportunities for regional partnerships that support our state’s climate, energy, environmental and transportation priorities. MDE and MDOT will continue to participate in public meetings and sessions with Maryland citizens, communities, and stakeholders over the coming months.

Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ben Grumbles
Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment



Pete K. Rahn
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation