



November 13, 2020

The Honorable William C. Ferguson
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 Ferguson 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) to 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 among mid-Atlantic and Northeast jurisdictions.

Maryland has been engaged in the ongoing regional discussions relating to TCI, including involvement in legal and technical calls. Some progress has been made in the policy design process, including achieving the first four phases of the development process, which is shown below. The COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to disrupt the proposed timeline, with a final Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) now expected later this year.

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

Phase 5 (Fall/Winter 2020)

- Release of the final MOU

Phase 6 (2020-2021)

- Participating jurisdictions develop a "model rule"

Phase 7 (2021-2023)

- Participating jurisdictions take any steps needed to implement the program

Participating jurisdictions continue to encourage the public, including experts, business representatives, and potentially affected communities and stakeholders, to submit comments on TCI. Public input has been welcomed at every phase of the policy design process and continues to be integral. The Georgetown Climate Center's TCI website is collecting public input on an ongoing basis and submissions are publicly available here: transportationandclimate.org/tci-regional-policy-design-stakeholder-submissions.

In September 2020, TCI hosted two main virtual webinars that were open to the public. On September 16, 2020, more than 400 participants tuned in to a webinar on program design, modeling, and the implications of COVID-19. On September 29, 2020, more than 600 participants tuned in to a webinar on equity in a regional low-carbon transportation program. Webinar information can be found here: transportationandclimate.org/tci-jurisdictions-share-updates-during-two-september-webinars

We encourage opportunities for regional partnerships that support our state's climate and transportation priorities in a nonpartisan manner. MDE and MDOT will continue to listen to Maryland citizens, communities, and stakeholders over the coming months as our state and communities continue to confront the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ben Grumbles
Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment



Gregory Slater
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation