



HB615 -- Education – School Construction – Pedestrian Safety Plan

House Appropriations Committee

February 25, 2020

Josh Feldmark, Director

Bike Maryland

joshua@bikemd.org

Position: Support

Safe biking and walking to school is the healthiest, most environmentally friendly and most expensive way for children to travel to school. Obesity is one of the top health issues for children and increased physical activity is the best remedy.

But sadly, many schools do not have surrounding routes that allow safe walking or biking. This bill will require a safe routes study for new schools and major renovations/expansions of existing schools. The small cost of the study should be more than offset by reduced bus cost and improved health. Moreover, any teacher will tell you that a student who walks or bikes to school arrives more ready to learn. Please support this bill so we can have more school children safely walking or biking to school.

We urge a favorable report.

This testimony is cosigned by:

Bike Advocates of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
BikeMore