



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

Christiana Rigby
Councilmember

District 3

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0284 Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Enforcement

March 9, 2021

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing today to express my **strong support for HB0284**, legislation introduced by Delegate Lewis that would strengthen protections for dedicated bus lanes in the State of Maryland.

According to Federal Transit Administration, the average public transit bus emits roughly 33% less greenhouse gas emissions than private, single-occupancy vehicles. We have a significant opportunity to combat climate change through revitalizing our public transit infrastructure in Maryland. However, many bus transit systems are hampered by poor traffic conditions and interruptions, which result in longer headways, delays, and infrequent service.

HB0284 seeks to address these challenges by restricting single-occupant vehicles from illegally driving in bus lanes and authorizing local jurisdictions to impose civil fines for violating the law. For growing jurisdictions like Howard County, this type of legislation expands the options in our toolbox to improve transit access and efficiency in our community. Dedicated bus lanes have the potential to reduce traffic and connect residents to opportunities that improve their lives and outcomes, including employment, education, and healthcare.

As you review HB0284, I encourage you to support actions that will strengthen, protect, and promote sustainable transportation options in our state. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christiana Mercer Rigby".

Christiana Rigby
Howard County Councilmember, District 3