



February 22, 2024

Senator Will Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 593 – UNFAVORABLE – Transportation – Maryland Transportation Authority – Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Accessibility

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 593 sets up various procedures for the Maryland Transportation Authority to allow pedestrians and bicyclists on highways, including the construction of bicycle ways and pedestrian walkways on highways overseen by the Maryland Transportation Authority.

While MTMBA appreciates the need for safe pedestrian and bicycle crossings in Maryland, SB 593 seems to have missed the mark. Allowing pedestrians and bicyclists on highways managed by the Maryland Transportation Authority seems highly dangerous. Highways are designed for high-speed traffic, and introducing pedestrians and cyclists would lead to higher rates of crashes and fatalities. At a time when the State is really pushing to create safer roads, this bill seems unwise. Additionally, the presence of pedestrians and cyclists on highways might disrupt ongoing construction projects. Construction zones typically have specific safety protocols, and introducing non-motorized traffic could complicate these protocols, potentially delaying projects and increasing costs.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 593.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Sakata', is written over a thin, light-colored line.

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association