



SB 77: Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements  
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Terps For Bike Lanes – FAVORABLE

February 1, 2024

Chair Smith and Committee Members,

We are writing this testimony in support of SB0077—the Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Authorizations and Requirements Act. Terps for Bike Lanes is an organization dedicated to enhancing bicycle infrastructure in and around UMD, with a focus on creating a safe and inclusive environment. We believe that supporting legislation such as SB0077 aligns with our mission and values, which revolve around sustainability, accessibility, and equity. Our efforts extend to various areas, including the establishment of new bike lanes and paths, the enhancement and maintenance of existing bike facilities, and the development of bike infrastructure in areas where it is currently insufficient or absent. Expanding bike infrastructure, as proposed in SB0077, not only promotes environmental sustainability by offering an eco-friendly transportation option but also enhances accessibility by making our campus more cyclist and pedestrian-friendly. This legislation is crucial in ensuring the safety and convenience of individuals using bicycles, play vehicles, or unicycles on sidewalks or sidewalk areas.

Moreover, we hold that bike infrastructure contributes to addressing economic disparities in marginalized communities. Students who depend on affordable personal transportation and areas affected by environmental and transportation inequalities can benefit greatly from improved biking facilities. By providing a viable and cost-effective mode of transportation, this legislation supports the economic well-being of individuals in these communities. We see SB0077 as a positive step towards achieving our shared goals and creating an environment that prioritizes sustainability, accessibility, and equity.

Promoting cycling has been acknowledged as a strategy to foster sustainability and address economic and social goals (Banister, 2011; Sagaris, 2021). The bicycle is considered a low-carbon

and affordable mobility option, with the potential to reduce inequalities in cities and mitigate adverse effects of climate change and motorized transport misuse (Karner, 2016). SB0077 aligns with this research. A prior version of this bill received bipartisan support and passed the House 135 – 2 during the 2023 session. It also received a positive hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee but never got a committee vote. Several jurisdictions including Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel counties and cities of Rockville, Frederick, and Annapolis have already permitted it, typically with a provision to yield to pedestrians.

In conclusion, we urge you to consider our endorsement of SB0077 and support the authorization for individuals to ride bicycles, play vehicles, or unicycles on sidewalks or sidewalk areas, unless prohibited by local ordinance. Additionally, requiring individuals using such modes of transportation to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians or those using electric personal assistive mobility devices is a crucial safety measure that aligns with our commitment to a safe and inclusive campus. We look forward to seeing positive advancements in bicycle infrastructure that will benefit the entire Maryland community. Terps For Bike Lanes urges a Favorable SB0077 committee report and Senate floor vote. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Sincerely,

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Treasurer - Parisi Fida

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