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Maryland General Assembly
Legislative Services Building
90 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Washington and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works writes this letter to support Senate Bill 514 - Sidewalk and Bicycle Pathways - Maintenance and Repair.

As drafted, this legislation would relieve the County of its obligation to maintain and repair sidewalks and bike pathways constructed by any developer of an industrial, commercial, or apartment area along a highway maintained by the State Highway Administration (SHA). The County generally does not participate in the construction of these sidewalks and should not be responsible for the perpetual maintenance of infrastructure in which they did not oversee the construction and installation. Furthermore, total replacement or reconstruction of the sidewalk remains the responsibility of SHA. The SHA would be more informed and better positioned to determine the needs for replacement and reconstruction if they were responsible for the routine repair and maintenance.

This legislation will result in an approximate annual savings of \$37.5k to Anne Arundel County, which may be diverted to the maintenance and upkeep of sidewalks on local roads, particularly those surrounding parks and schools. Anne Arundel County joins the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) in supporting SB 514.

We appreciate your hard work in the General Assembly and believe it is best that local jurisdictions are responsible to only fund and maintain the infrastructure that is theirs to own and operate in the manner that has proven most effective in their jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Henry".

Karen Henry
Director