



MARYLAND TRANSIT CAUCUS

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Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

On behalf of the Transit Caucus, we are writing to express our endorsement of **SB 155/HB 177: Vehicle Laws – Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles – Crosswalks.**

As advocates for transportation-related legislation before the General Assembly, we believe this bill is essential to our mission of ensuring a more sustainable, efficient, and accessible transit system for all residents. We are confident that its passage will have a positive impact on our communities, economy, and environment.

SB 155/ HB 177 aims to enhance roadway safety by allowing all cyclists, whether they are riding on the road, in a bike lane, or on a sidewalk to proceed through an intersection when the parallel pedestrian signal changes to "walk". Current state law allows bicyclists who are riding on a sidewalk to proceed through an intersection when a pedestrian signal changes to "walk," even when the traffic light is still red. A bicyclist who is riding in a bike lane or on the road, however, cannot proceed under current state law until they have a green light, regardless of the pedestrian signal. In essence, bicyclists operating on our roadways are treated the same as vehicles despite bicyclists having more in common with pedestrians than automobiles. An identical version of the bill passed the House unanimously in 2025.

Intersections are especially dangerous for cyclists; one in three crashes in Maryland involving a bicyclist happen at an intersection. This head start to begin crossing the street before vehicular traffic proceeds will enhance safety for everyone and promotes the Transit Caucus mission of ensuring a more sustainable, efficient, and accessible transit system for all residents. This bill advances the state's goal of Vision Zero by helping to prevent bicyclist injuries and fatalities on our roadways.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this bill. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We look forward to working with you as we build a better Maryland transportation system for all.

Thank you,

Senator Cory McCray, Co-Chair

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, Co-Chair

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