

# HOUSE BILL 656

R2

2lr0805  
CF SB 880

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By: **Delegate Charkoudian**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Safe Access for All (SAFE) Roads Act of 2022**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Transportation, under certain  
4 circumstances, to recommend and implement certain design elements when  
5 developing certain projects; requiring the Department to implement certain safety  
6 improvements for certain projects; ~~requiring the State Highway Administration to~~  
7 ~~conduct a certain analysis and study~~; requiring the Governor, for certain fiscal years,  
8 to include in the annual budget bill certain appropriations for certain purposes; and  
9 generally relating to pedestrian and bicycle rider safety.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Transportation

12 Section 2–103.1(c–1) and 2–609

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 2–103.1.

19 **(C–1) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN DEVELOPING ANY CONSTRUCTION OR**  
20 **IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, OR POSTCONSTRUCTION PROJECT, PRESERVATION, OR**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 MAINTENANCE, SHALL RECOMMEND AND IMPLEMENT CONTEXT-DRIVEN DESIGN  
2 ELEMENTS FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY CONSISTENT WITH:

3 (I) THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL  
4 HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PROVEN SAFETY COUNTERMEASURES; AND

5 (II) THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION'S CONTEXT  
6 DRIVEN GUIDE AND ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES.

7 (2) IF A NEW CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IS  
8 PROJECTED TO TAKE MORE THAN 12 MONTHS TO COMPLETE, THE DEPARTMENT  
9 SHALL IMPLEMENT ALL POSSIBLE INCREMENTAL, NEAR-TERM SAFETY  
10 IMPROVEMENTS IMMEDIATELY WHILE MAINTAINING EACH PROJECT'S PRIORITY  
11 RANKING.

12 2-609.

13 ~~(A) TO IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE RIDER SAFETY IN THE STATE,~~  
14 ~~THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL:~~

15 ~~(1) CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF SITES, CORRIDORS, AND~~  
16 ~~INTERSECTIONS ACROSS THE STATE WITH PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE RIDER~~  
17 ~~CRASHES, FATALITIES, AND SIGNIFICANT INJURIES;~~

18 ~~(2) CONDUCT A FULL STUDY OF ROAD CHARACTERISTICS THAT:~~

19 ~~(I) DETERMINES WHICH FACTORS CREATE A PUBLIC SAFETY~~  
20 ~~RISK OR DANGER TO VULNERABLE ROAD USERS SUCH AS PEDESTRIANS AND~~  
21 ~~CYCLISTS;~~

22 ~~(II) INCLUDES A NETWORK ANALYSIS THAT EXAMINES~~  
23 ~~VULNERABLE ROAD USERS' ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS TO DETERMINE HIGH RISK~~  
24 ~~AREAS WHERE ACCIDENTS COULD OCCUR;~~

25 ~~(III) EXAMINES GAPS IN EXISTING SAFE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR~~  
26 ~~VULNERABLE ROAD USERS SUCH AS SHARED USE PATHS, SIDEWALKS, BIKE~~  
27 ~~LANES, AND HIGH RISK ROADWAY CROSSINGS;~~

28 ~~(IV) RECOMMENDS ENGINEERING AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS~~  
29 ~~DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE RIDER INJURIES AND~~  
30 ~~FATALITIES;~~

31 ~~(V) DEVELOPS A BUDGET ESTIMATE AND TIMELINE FOR THE~~  
32 ~~IMPLEMENTATION OF EACH ENGINEERING AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENT; AND~~

1 ~~(VI) IMPLEMENTS EACH ENGINEERING AND SAFETY~~  
2 ~~IMPROVEMENT;~~

3 ~~(3) ENSURE THAT ALL ENGINEERING AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS~~  
4 ~~ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE VISION ZERO PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 8,~~  
5 ~~SUBTITLE 10 OF THIS ARTICLE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES DESCRIBED~~  
6 ~~IN § 8-1005 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND~~

7 ~~(4) CONSULT REGULARLY WITH THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN~~  
8 ~~ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-606 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

9 ~~(B)~~ (A) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, FOR  
10 ~~FISCAL YEARS YEAR 2024 THROUGH 2028~~, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE  
11 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE HIGHWAY  
12 ADMINISTRATION'S SAFETY, CONGESTION RELIEF, HIGHWAY AND BRIDGES  
13 SYSTEM PRESERVATION MINOR PROJECTS PROGRAM FOR THE FOLLOWING  
14 PURPOSES AND IN AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

15 (I) ADA RETROFIT - ~~\$9,000,000~~ \$7,400,000;

16 (II) BICYCLE RETROFIT - ~~\$10,000,000~~ \$6,200,000;

17 (III) SAFETY AND SPOT IMPROVEMENT - ~~\$80,000,000~~  
18 \$44,100,000;

19 (IV) SIDEWALK PROGRAM - ~~\$10,000,000~~ \$8,500,000; AND

20 (V) TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - ~~\$60,000,000~~ \$39,100,000.

21 (2) FOR FISCAL ~~YEARS 2025 THROUGH 2028~~ YEAR 2024, THE  
22 AMOUNTS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE  
23 INCREASED BY ~~10% EACH YEAR~~ AT LEAST THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN  
24 AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM OBTAINED BY THE STATE IN FORMULA  
25 DOLLARS FROM THE FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT.

26 ~~(C)~~ (B) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2022, THE STATE HIGHWAY  
27 ADMINISTRATION SHALL REPORT ON:

28 (1) THE NUMBER OF OPEN STAFF POSITIONS IN THE STATE HIGHWAY  
29 ADMINISTRATION BY TITLE AND DEPARTMENT AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THESE  
30 OPEN POSITIONS SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING SAFETY  
31 IMPROVEMENTS ONCE IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED; AND

1           **(2) INFORMATION ABOUT EMPLOYEES THAT PERFORM DIRECT**  
2 **LABOR ON HIGHWAY AND ROAD SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE**  
3 **STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:**

4                   **(I) WAGE, BENEFIT, AND COMPENSATION LEVELS;**

5                   **(II) OPEN POSITIONS BY TITLE AND DEPARTMENT;**

6                   **(III) TURNOVER RATES; AND**

7                   **(IV) AN EXAMINATION OF HOW TURNOVER RATES AND OPEN**  
8 **POSITIONS AFFECT HOW QUICKLY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.**

9           ~~**(D) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, AND JULY 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,**~~  
10 ~~**THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**~~  
11 ~~**ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**~~  
12 ~~**ASSEMBLY ON THE FINDINGS OF AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUBSECTION (A)(1) AND**~~  
13 ~~**(2) OF THIS SECTION.**~~

14           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General  
15 Assembly that the Maryland Department of Transportation maximize applications for and  
16 access to federal funding that is or may become available for infrastructure for pedestrian  
17 and bicycle safety.

18           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
19 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.